

Flaw Is Found in Computers That Secure Many Airports

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Turn on the television and you might expect to see members of the opposition party screaming for President Bill Clinton's head. They are not.

Republicans are hardly the doubt over his alleged involvement with Monica Lewinsky. In fact, Republicans in the House, ever so quietly, are examining how they would carry out impeachment proceedings against Mr. Clinton.

Yet, as the White House scandal approaches its third week, most prominent Republicans are abiding a deliberate political calculus: Make sure Mr. Clinton stays put — but keep him wounded.

"We need to be positive, patriotic and patient," Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, declared last week at a closed-door meeting of House Republicans.

This "Be Patient" strategy, Republicans say, has many advantages.

It deprives the White House of portraying the scandal as purely partisan. If Mr. Clinton stays in office but remains beleaguered, he will be

all the more vulnerable a target as Republicans campaign against Democrats in the November midterm elections.

Some Republicans go as far as to admit that they do not want Mr. Clinton forced out of office, because that would give his replacement, Vice President Al Gore, a leg up in the presidential race in 2000.

From a strictly cynical political standpoint, we don't want this to be too fast," said Rich Galen, a Republican strategist who is close to Mr. Gingrich. "There's no hurry here."

Paraphrasing a line from a former Nixon aide, John Ehrlichman, that is part of Watergate lore, Mr. Galen said, "Let people twist slowly in the wind." He added, mischievously, "And I believe I feel a breeze."

Representative Bob Inglis, Republican of South Carolina, said, "If I were a Democrat, not just the president, I'd be very interested in having this matter cleared very quickly."

But restless Republicans say it is a huge mistake for the party to keep such a low profile — and they point to Mr. Clinton's unshakably high job approval ratings as evidence that the strategy is only helping Democrats.

"I do not believe in death by a thousand cuts," said Representative Bob Barr, Republican of Georgia, the most outspoken advocate of having the House consider impeaching Mr. Clinton. "The presidency in our country is too important for that."

Asked about the go-slow approach of Mr. Gingrich and others in the leadership, Mr. Barr said, "They're putting politics above principle, and I don't choose to do that."

Stuart Stevens, a Republican media consultant in Washington and New York, said: "The danger for the Republican Party is that it is being made irrelevant by its silence. It has been a consistent failure of Republicans to find a way to talk about this very troubling side of Clinton in a way that people find relevant and compelling. The big issue here is integrity."

Day by day, as more and more information leaks out, the obstreperous Republicans will only intensify their pressure on Mr. Gingrich, and on Representative Henry Hyde, Republican of Illinois, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to launch an overt attack on Mr. Clinton.

But why all the hurry? After all,

more than 25 months passed from the Watergate burglary in 1972 to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. When the Iran-contra affair broke in 1986, most Democrats decided early on not to press the issue of impeachment against President Ronald Reagan. If for no other reason, they said, he was practically a lame duck anyway.

Part of the problem for Republicans is that the accusations against Mr. Clinton are of such a fast-moving swirl that even Republicans who squawk about impeachment cannot say for certain just what the president might be impeached on a scandal that is hardly that.

Representative Bill McCollum, Republican of Florida, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, brushed off suggestions that Mr. Clinton's predicament has many in the Republican Party celebrating — though in the privacy of their own hideaways in the Capitol.

"I want to be as open-minded as possible," Mr. McCollum said. "It's really not the right time to be speaking out. Everybody should be patient. Republicans and Democrats. The system is designed to be a deliberative process."

Clinton's Ratings: Up and Up

WASHINGTON — Despite allegations that he had an affair with a former White House intern, President Bill Clinton's approval rating has soared to 79 percent, according to a poll made public Sunday. His approval rating in a December poll by the same group was 59 percent.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll taken Saturday gave Mr. Clinton a 79 percent approval rating for the job he is doing as president. Fifteen percent said they disapproved of his handling of his job and 6 percent were undecided.

Sixty-five percent of the 407 adults questioned in the latest poll by the Hart-Teeter organization said Mr. Clinton should not be impeached and removed from office even if allegations that he lied under oath about an affair with a 21-year-old White House intern were true. But 29 percent said if the allegations were true he should be removed from the White House.

(Reuters)

Governor Romer Denies Affair

DENVER — Governor Roy Romer of Colorado has denied that a 16-year "affectionate relationship" with a former aide had any sexual dimension.

"This was not a sexual relationship. It was a very affectionate relationship. That's as straight as I can be," said Mr. Romer, who is also chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Romer's news conference came in response to a report on the Internet site of the conservative Insight magazine, owned by The Washington Times, which published allegations of an affair with Betty Jane Thornberry, 51, who left her job in December.

Quote/Unquote

Jim Kane, chief pollster with Florida Voter, a nonpartisan polling organization, after a group of black political and civic leaders declared "political war" on Democrats over the ouster of Willie Logan as chairman of the Democratic caucus in the Florida House of Representatives: "Quite frankly, Democrats can't succeed at all in this state without black voter support. It's not a help; it's crucial."

Away From Politics

• A trove of scientific records from the Naval Research Laboratory has been destroyed because of snarled communications between another federal agency and the laboratory, which calls the loss a calamity.

• Six houses slid down soaked hillsides over the weekend as the latest in a series of El Niño-powered storms blew drenching rain through Northern California.

• The family of a former Virginia Military Institute freshman who was beaten regularly by VMI seniors while enrolled there last fall is demanding that school officials treat the case as a criminal offense.

• Experts on sexual harassment law say Mrs. Jones's new legal team has taken a bolder but also riskier approach because many judges have ruled that evidence about rewarding other women for consensual sex is not admissible.

(NYT)

(AP)

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(WP)

Aftershocks Still Jolting Afghan Hinterlands

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KABUL — Aftershocks jolted remote northeast Afghanistan before dawn Sunday, crumbling more villages in an area where thousands reportedly died in an earthquake last week.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is coordinating relief efforts, said a foreign medical team had reached the epicenter of the quake in the remote Rustak district and had gathered reports from surrounding villages.

The Red Cross spokesman said that a team from Doctors Without Borders had received reports from local officials giving a death toll of nearly 3,300 in Rustak and 12 nearby villages.

Aid workers could not confirm the varying estimates ranging from 2,000 to 4,500 dead, he said, but the low numbers of injured admitted to a clinic in Rustak raised hopes the loss of life may be lower than first thought.

He said a Red Cross plane packed with emergency medical and water sanitation supplies managed to land Sunday near Rustak, 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of the Afghan capital.

"If there are over 3,000 killed we would expect thousands of injured, but so far there are reports of only 80 serious cases," the spokesman said. "But we have to assess the situation and confirm the toll."

However, the Afghan Embassy in

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, said that two major aftershocks had claimed more victims. A spokesman said aftershocks late Saturday and early Sunday killed 250 more people and injured 50.

Red Cross officials in Pakistan said a four-member delegation would survey conditions in the devastated area and report back on relief needs Monday.

The first quake hit Wednesday night with a magnitude of 6.1 in the Rustak district, which lies at the junction of the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges.

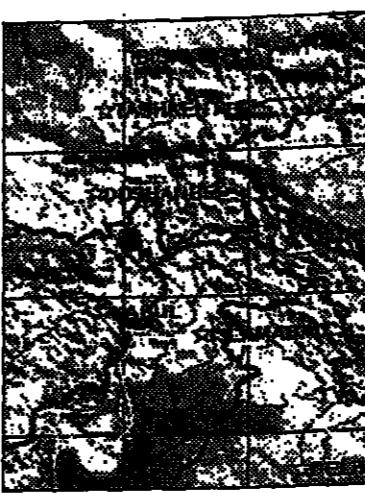
First reports of the quake reached Kabul two days later, and details were still emerging Sunday. The tremor that rocked the area Saturday night and again

at 4 A.M. Sunday added four more villages to the dozen or so destroyed or damaged earlier.

Officials with the military alliance that controls the area said the first quake left as many as 15,000 families homeless when hillsides collapsed onto each other, crushing the mud and brick homes perched on the slopes.

Masood Khalili, the Afghan ambassador to India, said soldiers had dug out a total of 3,681 bodies by late Saturday. Other Afghan officials have put the death toll as high as 4,450, while the Red Cross put the preliminary death toll at 2,150.

One village, Ghunji, had 600 homes destroyed, Mr. Khalili said, and 1,600 people were killed. (AP, Reuters, AFP)



The black dot marks the epicenter of the quake in north Afghanistan.

Okinawa Vote Goes to Backer Of Heliport, a Boon to Tokyo

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — In a boost to supporters of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, a candidate who backs plans to build a floating American heliport off the coast of the southern island narrowly won a mayoral election Sunday in the city of Nago.

Takeshi Kishimoto, 54, a former deputy mayor supported by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, won by a slim margin after emphasizing that building the heliport, at a cost of \$1 billion to \$2 billion, would invigorate the depressed local economy.

Mr. Kishimoto received 16,253 votes to 15,103 votes for Yoshikazu Tamaki, 49, a former Okinawa prefectural assemblyman who opposes the heliport because of the noise it would bring and the danger Okinawans associate with the U.S. military.

The election took place two days after the governor of Okinawa, Masahisa Ota, announced that he would not support government efforts to build the floating platform off Nago. Mr. Ota noted that in a nonbinding referendum in December, 54 percent of Nago voters rejected the plan.

Despite Mr. Ota's opposition, Mr. Kishimoto's victory is expected to provide a boost to the central government's attempts to persuade the governor to go along with the heliport. Mr. Ota's approval is required to build the facility.

Two-thirds of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan are on Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. Long-standing opposition to the military presence exploded in 1995 after the rape of a 12-year-old girl there and the conviction of three U.S. servicemen in the crime.

Appealing to Okinawans uneasy about the heliport, Mr. Kishimoto said in his victory speech that the installation would come in exchange for the return of land occupied by a U.S. military air base in the town of Futenma.

The heliport project resulted from a 1996 U.S.-Japan agreement in which Washington agreed to close the Futenma Air Station in five to seven years on the condition that an alternative heliport be built somewhere in the prefecture.

"We should go back to the origin of the issue — which is the return of Futenma — once more, and look at it afresh," Mr. Kishimoto said.

The Tokyo government was so eager to push the project, through that it threatened to withhold \$150 million in economic assistance for Okinawa, the poorest of Japan's 32 prefectures.

Mr. Hashimoto and the Liberal Democratic Party had pushed for the heliport.

"The LDP played hard ball; they said no heliport, no money," said a political analyst, John Neuffer.

With the economy in tatters, the heliport was looked at as a gold mine by the Tokyo authorities and by the big construction companies. (AP, Reuters)



Vincent Yu/The Associated Press

Chicken's Back on Menu in Hong Kong

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — The sale of chickens resumed Sunday in Hong Kong for the first time in six weeks, and the demand was so great that they were snapped up at exorbitant prices despite lingering fears about a bird flu that has killed six people.

Customers bought chickens despite price increases of up to 50 percent and warnings from medical experts that more cases of type-A H5N1 virus could not be ruled out. The virus has infected 18 people here, including the six who died.

One poultry shop in the Wan Chai tourist area sold out of chickens within three hours of opening Sunday.

The birds were fetching prices up to 90 Hong Kong dollars (\$11.50) each.

about 10 dollars more than before the ban. Retailers said wholesalers were charging them about 30 percent more because of the scarce supply.

Wong Woon-nam, 90, said he was not worried about the high prices.

"I have been sick for the last month," he said. "and my doctor told me to have chicken soup, and I will pay more to get it."

Hong Kong people prefer freshly killed chickens over frozen imports because of their freshness and better taste.

Vendors complained that only 35,000 birds were imported into Hong Kong on Saturday, when the government lifted the ban on live chickens from China.

The birds were fetching prices up to 90 Hong Kong dollars (\$11.50) each.

80,000 birds daily, or 75 percent of the territory's daily consumption.

No new flu cases have been reported in Hong Kong since the government slaughtered all the territory's 1.4 million chickens in late December.

The fowl are now quarantined for five days on the mainland before being shipped, and some birds from each shipment are blood-tested by a Hong Kong government laboratory on the border.

Plastic and metal cages have replaced wooden ones, and tough new rules on hygiene at markets are in force.

A global effort is under way to understand the virus. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will release their findings this month.

(AFP, AP, Reuters)

Religious Leaders Begin China Mission

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

BEIJING — A high-profile delegation of American religious leaders began arriving Sunday in Beijing for the start of a three-week tour of China to examine the state of religious freedom here, one of the most volatile human-rights issues in American diplomacy.

While it is being described as private, the mission was agreed to by President Jiang Zemin of China and President Bill Clinton during their meeting last October, and the White House picked the three-man delegation: a Jewish leader, an evangelical Christian leader and a Roman Catholic archbishop.

From Tuesday to Mar. 1, the group will meet with officials and religious leaders in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Lhasa in Tibet and Hong Kong. They have been granted rare approval for the

visit to Tibet, the mountain region where the Chinese are accused of repressing Buddhist religion and culture.

Both the Chinese and the American governments hope that the unusual dialogue will help defuse what has rapidly emerged as a popular human-rights crusade, threatening their efforts to build friendlier political and economic ties.

In the United States, a coalition of evangelical Christians and other religious groups, human-rights advocates and supporters of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, wants stronger measures to fight what it describes as widespread persecution of Christians and Tibetan Buddhists in China.

It says that China is engaged in a campaign of arrests and harassment designed to stamp out unapproved religious activity by millions of people including Catholics who give allegiance to

the Vatican, Protestant groups that meet in private homes and Buddhists who follow the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government angrily rejects the charges of persecution. It says that 14 million Protestants and Catholics worship in the state-approved churches, their numbers growing, and describes leaders of the so-called underground churches as criminal elements.

The first American delegation member to arrive in Beijing on Sunday sought to hold down expectations.

"This will be a very modest step, but it's a beginning," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a group that promotes religious tolerance around the world. The other two members are Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of the Roman Catholic diocese of Newark and the Reverend Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

John Powell British Politician

CHINA: Dissident Is Arrested

Continued from Page 1

planned for about a year, according to Fu Stenqi, a veteran democracy activist now living in New York who said he had helped the dissident set up his trip.

Mr. Fu told The Associated Press that the Justice Party meeting was to be held in northern China later this month.

Mr. Wang sneaked into China from Portuguese-run Macau under a false name, according to Frank Lu Siping, head of the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Separately, China released a jailed Christian activist on the eve of a fact-finding mission by three U.S. clerics, the information center said. Gao Feng, sentenced to two and a half years in a labor camp in 1995, was released Saturday, it said, after completing his term.

BRIEFLY

A Call to Arms in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga appealed Sunday to army and police deserters to return and take up arms against Tamil Tiger rebels, as heavy fighting was reported in Sri Lanka's northern battlefronts.

Mrs. Kumaratunga asked soldiers and policemen to report back to duty this year, the country's 50th year of independence, saying it would be an ideal time for them to serve the nation. She said she had asked military authorities not to court-martial the deserters if they returned.

The Sri Lankan military, battling the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is plagued by desertions as soldiers or leave fail to report back for duty. Last year, the army was forced to extend an amnesty for deserters after many failed to meet a deadline to return to barracks. Military officials say that more than 10,000 soldiers are listed as deserters. (Reuters)

accused the government on Sunday of sidelining King Norodom Sihanouk and said a July election would not be free or fair given the country's current political conditions.

In a broadcast on clandestine radio, the guerrillas said Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and his supporters, who came to power ousting First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, were to blame for the situation.

King Sihanouk, who has been at odds with Mr. Hun Sen since the second prime minister ousted his son in July, left Cambodia last month. He has said he would not return because of unfair criticism.

(Reuters)

Australia Constitutional Debate

CANBERRA — Prime Minister John Howard of Australia said Sunday that there was nothing sinister in his push to settle on a model for a republic to be voted on in a referendum.

Mr. Howard has said that a convention debating the issue needed to produce one model to put against the current constitutional monarchy, which has the British monarch as Australia's head of state, at a referendum in 1999.

The convention, attended by 152 delegates, half elected, half appointed, resumes Monday for its second and final week. Mr. Howard's stance has been criticized by some republicans, who say that monarchists at the convention could vote for the republican model most likely to be defeated at a referendum.

"I'm not trying to be clever or Machiavellian," Mr. Howard said in a television interview. "I just want an outcome." Although the majority of the convention's delegates are considered republicans, they have not yet reached agreement on whether the head of state should be popularly elected or appointed. (Reuters)

Balloonists Land in Burma

BANGKOK — The Burmese military junta scored a rare public-relations victory by allowing a European balloon to land after its bid to orbit the globe was thwarted by China's delay in granting it permission to fly through its airspace.

The Breitling Orbiter 2 landed north of Rangoon on Sunday after generals gave an unusual green light for it to enter the country, which has been isolated by the West over

(AFP)

criticisms of its human rights record.

PHNOM PENH — The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group,

MANILA: Entertaining Choices in Philippines' Presidential Race

Continued from Page 1

Estrada, who dropped out of college to become an actor and is known as a populist, has a sufficient background in economics to manage the country.

"The guy is underrated," said Senator Edgar Angara, a former president of the University of the Philippines who dropped his own presidential bid to become Mr. Estrada's running mate. "His popularity is an indispensable quality, for the next president will have to inaugurate an austerity program for the country."

Mr. Estrada said he was used to being belittled by his detractors, whom he calls "those intellectual snobs."

To those who say an actor cannot be president, Mr. Estrada evokes the name of the politician he calls "my idol," Ronald Reagan. "The most powerful nation in the world can elect a movie actor," he said. "I don't see why the Philippines can't."

As for his checkered romantic life — Mr. Estrada acknowledges having a longtime mistress and four children born out of wedlock to different women — he says, "As far as I am concerned, this is my private life."

The best-known candidate in the race probably is Imelda Marcos, 68, the widow of Ferdinand Marcos, the deposed former dictator.

Mrs. Marcos, now a congresswoman,

is battling court cases stemming from the couple's 20-year rule and allegations that the Marcoses looted billions of dollars from the country's coffers. She is now appealing a Supreme Court ruling last month upholding her 1993 conviction on corruption charges and a 12-year prison sentence.

Despite a hard core of loyalists, Mrs. Marcos is widely unpopular in most of the country — particularly with those who suffered under her husband's dictatorship and who remember the shoe collection she amassed as first lady. She made a poor showing six years ago in a crowded field and will probably fare even worse this time.

She is, however, expected to add to the entertainment value of the campaign. She punctuates her rallies with songs and invariably draws most of the attention of the foreign press.

Mr. Ramos's preference as his successor, the one he deemed most able to block Mr. Estrada's rise, is the speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia. Mr. Ramos's endorsement of him was a surprise, as the speaker rarely scored above the single-digit range in opinion polls and has a reputation as a wheeler-dealer.

But Mr. de Venecia controls the country's most formidable political machine, the governing Lakas-NUCD party, which reaches into every provincial town and village. An uninspiring speaker, he at times seems like a candidate

running primarily on his endorsements.

Mr. de Venecia claims credit for steering Mr. Ramos's economic reform package through a contentious House. "All the economic and social reform legislation was initiated by me, or by President Ramos, or jointly," he boasted.

Mostly, Mr. de Venecia is not Mr. Estrada's main political ally. He is a member of the People's Progressive Party, which is a loose coalition of former members of the People's Democratic Party and other left-wing groups.

The unknown factor, however, is "Dirty Harry" — Manila's mayor and former police chief, Alfredo Lim.

Mr. Lim earned the "Dirty Harry" nickname in recognition of some questionable police methods. When he declared war on drug dealers a few years ago, the mutilated bodies of suspected pushers were found with signs around their necks reading, "Don't Follow Me — I'm a Drug Dealer."

Mr. Lim is little known outside Manila. But, surprisingly, he recently received one of the country's most coveted

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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Clinton's Silence

On the level of pure performance, President Bill Clinton is probably the most gifted politician of the last half of this century. John F. Kennedy, of course, had a standard-setting talent, but was his press conference after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion as flawless an example of grace under pressure as Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address and the punch-slipping mastery of his Friday press conference? Not even Ronald Reagan possessed Mr. Clinton's extemporaneous smoothness, and by the time of his greatest scandal, Iran-contra, Mr. Reagan's gifts had eroded noticeably.

In the midst of his own crisis, Mr. Clinton is looking worn, but his ability to argue a shaky case, his voice control, his situational sincerity remain remarkably intact. But you have to wonder, based on the past two weeks, if he and his staff understand the metabolism of a long-running Washington story. It is striking, for example, that the president's lawyers and political spokesmen keep relying on the scorched-earth tactics that work in the compact time frame of a campaign.

But the rhythm of a governmental as opposed to a campaign, scandal is different. After election day, everything ends. Victory is declared. Defeated victims become impotent ghosts, not potentially hostile witnesses. A full-blown crisis is different. Like a biological life, it moves not toward a date certain but toward a natural, organic completion that happens when it happens.

The impulses of an embattled president toward a false faith that harmful information can be safely secured, like nuclear material in a lead container. But the modern experience has been that everything comes out, and that when the process starts, it overwhelms the classic defensive responses. One such response is a war on "leakers," such as that launched on

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Tragedy in Italy

Accidents are a familiar and almost unavoidable result of the demanding training essential to military readiness. The global reach of American strategic commitments ensures that some number of these accidents involving Americans will occur on foreign soil. When

pilots are known to careen down mountain airways, even to duck under cables and bridges, at terrific speeds. American and Italian investigators are now looking into the particular circumstances of the errant flight.

As always in these episodes, the first requirement is for straight talk and abundant respect for local sensibilities. In this instance, even before an investigation had fairly begun, an American general at NATO offered an uncorroborated version of the flight exonerating the crew. Uncorrected for several days, it sent the extreme right and left in Italian politics into vivid Rambo evocations. Only then did U.S. military authorities acknowledge that the aircraft was flying hundreds of feet below the prescribed minimum.

General Charles Krulak, the Marine Corps commandant, has promised a diligent, open and fair investigation that would enforce accountability, in an American court, in the event of a finding of pilot error.

This is the right course. Italy is a firm NATO ally of the United States. Just recently the government approved alliance enlargement. The loss of 20 people is enough to pay for this tragedy in the mountains.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Republic of Oz?

When the 152 members of the Constitutional Convention wind up their two-week meeting in Canberra on Feb. 13, they will probably decide that Australia should replace Britain's Queen Elizabeth as its head of state. That would be a good decision for Australia. The more difficult question is what sort of republic should Australia become.

The model that the delegates pick for the Republic of Oz will be put to a referendum, probably next year. If Australians agree, their first president could be in office in time to open the Sydney Olympics in 2000, or at least to lead the celebrations — likely to be quite a party — the following year for the centenary of the Australian nation, marking the coming together in 1901 of a federation of British colonies once used as a dumping ground for convicts from the motherland.

The monarchy sits oddly with Australia's increasing cultural diversity. Australia stopped being predominantly an Anglo-Celtic country 50 years

—The Economist (London).

Good Governance Is the Only Real Protection'

By Thomas L. Friedman

DAVOS, Switzerland — Asia's economic meltdown has spurred all sorts of would-be geo-architects to try to design some new, global mechanism that will regulate international capital flows and miraculously prevent global investors and speculators from ever again wreaking havoc.

I am deeply skeptical about such ideas, not because I oppose tempering market excesses but because I think that trying to do it on a global scale is nearly impossible. Risk, fear, greed and excess are intrinsic to markets. You cannot legislate them out without paying a huge price.

What is interesting is that while Westerners are trying to redesign the market, the Thais, Koreans and Mexicans at this year's Davos World Economic Forum were focused on redesigning themselves. They think their solution is better local government, not global government.

Their countries were like 50-watt bulbs plugged into 250-watt sockets, and when the surge came from the electronic herd of global investors, they blew up. Their reaction is to try to protect themselves with better regulation and more transparency.

The Thai prime minister, Chuan

Leekpai, told me: "If you are going to be part of this global market, you had better be able to defend yourself from this market ... One of the lessons this crisis has taught us is that many of our structures and institutions were not ready for this new era. Now we have to adapt ourselves to meet international standards. The whole of society expects it. They are looking for better government and transparent government."

Yes, added Mr. Zedillo, we need a strong IMF to help in emergencies and to detect distortions in countries or individual banks. But at the end of the day, he said, "all of these financial flows end up in a local financial system, or as resources to be lent by local banks. What we have to look at is whether these [local] financial systems are sufficiently installing good banking and financial practices."

As Bob Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International, put it: "If your domestic institutions are strong, then you don't need very global institutions. If domestic institutions inside countries are weak, it won't matter how strong your global institutions are. They will not be effective."

Democracy does not guarantee that

you will never have an economic crisis. We know that. Markets overshoot. Investors take crazy risks.

But the more democratic, accountable and open your governance, especially as an emerging market, the less likely it is that your financial system will be exposed to surprises the easier it will be for you to improve and adapt when it is, and the more legitimacy your government will have to share the pain when change is required.

Of those Asian nations which were fully plugged into the market (China is not), those with the most noncorrupt, transparent and accountable financial systems — Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore — have been hurt the least. Those that had democratic, but corrupt, systems — Thailand and South Korea — were hurt the second worst, but at least have been able to respond quickly by voting in better governance.

The country that is going to melt down is Indonesia. Its corrupt, authoritarian regime can't adapt.

"Look around the neighborhood," said the Thai finance minister, Tarrin Nimmahamaendira. "Good governance is the only real protection."

The New York Times.

This Time, Help Iraqis to Get Rid of Saddam's Regime

By Richard Perle

WASHINGTON — The immediate provocation is Saddam Hussein's defiant attachment to weapons of mass destruction and his interference with UN inspectors charged with finding and eliminating them. Given the prospect of chemical and biological weapons in his murderous hands, military action is long overdue.

A serious Western policy toward Iraq would be aimed at the destruction of Saddam's regime through a combination of military and political measures — with the political measures even as important as the military ones.

Chief among these would be open support for the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella opposition group in which all elements of Iraqi society are represented.

To be effective, support for the Iraqi opposition should be comprehensive; support given them in the past has been hopelessly inadequate. In fact, help for the Iraqi opposition, administered in an inept, halfhearted and ineffective way by the CIA, has been the political equivalent of the insubstantial, pinprick air strikes conducted against targets in Iraq in recent years.

A serious political program would entail five elements:

• Washington should, first, recognize the democratic opposition as the legitimate, provisional government and support its claim to Iraq's seat at the United Nations.

• It should begin to disburse to the provisional government some of the billions in Iraqi assets frozen after the Kuwait invasion.

• It should lift the sanctions on the territory (now principally in the north but likely to spread) not under Saddam Hussein's control. This would catapult these areas into significant economic growth and attract defectors from within Iraq. Much of Iraq's oil lies in areas that Saddam cannot now control or over which he would quickly lose control if an opposition government were established.

• It should assist the opposition in taking its message to the Iraqi people by making radio and television transmitters available to them.

• It must be prepared to give logistical support and military equipment to the opposition and to use airpower to defend in the territory it controls.

This is what should have been done in August 1996 when Saddam's troops and secret po-

lice moved into northern Iraq and murdered hundreds of supporters of the opposition Iraqi National Congress. Shamefully, America stood by while people it had supported were lined up and summarily executed.

Skeptics will argue that the Iraqi National Congress is too frail a raid on which to base a strategy for eliminating Saddam. It is indeed a small corps (of perhaps a few thousand); it would need to rally significant popular support. But it has been steadfast in its principled opposition to Saddam, consistent in its democratic ambitions, and, when given the chance, able to establish itself in a significant area of Iraqi territory.

It has earned American support at the sacrifice of its members. And with American backing it has a chance.

It would be neither wise nor necessary to send ground forces into Iraq when patriotic Iraqis

are willing to fight to liberate their own country.

I would not want to be in Saddam's tanks in the narrow defiles of northern Iraq, or in parts of the south, when U.S. airpower commands the skies.

This strategy aims at eliciting a full-blown insurrection, taking off from territory Saddam does not control and spreading as his opponents find security and opportunity in joining with others who wish to liberate Iraq.

There can be no guarantee that it will work. But what is guaranteed not to work is a quick-fix air campaign that leaves him in power.

The writer, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, was U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security policy from 1981 to 1987. This comment is adapted from a longer article in The Washington Post.

Bush Was Right Not to Invade

By Philip Taubman

NEW YORK — As U.S. and

British forces once again assemble for a possible air campaign against Iraq, George Bush's decision not to take Baghdad during the Gulf War is a natural target for criticism.

What if ground forces had seized Baghdad, captured Saddam and installed a more moderate government? What if Iraq today were a U.S. ally in the Middle East?

The idea of driving on to

still a formidable power, was ready to withdraw the tacit but critical support it had given to the campaign to free Kuwait.

Mr. Bush and his advisers worried about the perception, growing by the hour, that U.S. forces were needlessly slaughtering retreating Iraqi troops.

Perhaps there was excessive sensitivity on this point, an extension of the modern American idea that war can somehow be a bloodless exercise, but television images of burning Iraqi tanks and bodies along the "Highway of Death" were a powerful brake on additional attacks.

There was the possibility that U.S. troops would face greater resistance as they closed in on Baghdad, and might suffer many casualties in combat in the city.

Then there was the question of occupation. If U.S. forces took Baghdad, they could not turn around and go home a week later even if they were welcomed as liberators, which was far from certain. The United States, without strong international support, would have faced a long, expensive stay as it tried to install a new government and help reconstruct a country traumatized by war and years of murderous dictatorship.

Clearly, the world would be a safer place if Saddam were not running Iraq. But as Bill Clinton considers his future military options, and comes under ever greater pressure to unseat Saddam, he may find the Gulf War a useful guide. The idea of toppling Saddam is an alluring goal that grows more problematic the closer it gets.

The New York Times.

Israel Needs Change at the Top

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — The

U.S. secretary of state has told the Israeli and Palestinian leaders that she is sick and tired of their refusal to come to terms. Years of American diplomacy are coming up against a brick wall. But it becomes progressively harder to understand how, from these two, agreement is possible.

There is no — repeat, no — chance that even a carefully conceived and well-executed bombing campaign would eliminate the arsenal of chemical and biological weapons (and the capacity to make more of them) that Saddam has hidden away.

There is a real danger that an inadequate bombing campaign, especially if it appeared to

thus addressed, the Palestinian leadership would have the additional authority and incentive to address Israel's first priority, security. Yasser Arafat should not need an incentive to do the right, necessary and expected thing, but the political reality is that he does.

There is a fatal flaw at the heart of Mr. Netanyahu's policy. He is not prepared to address the Palestinians' basic grievance. To think that Israel can humiliate them politically and then reap the benefits of their security cooperation is foolish. It can't happen.

The Netanyahu policy is real, and, as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has now discovered, it stirs possibilities for an American-Israeli negotiating consensus.

But the political foundation under it is wobbling. The sitting Likud coalition has already lost its heavyweight nonideological finance and foreign ministers and may yet lose its defense minister. In the Israeli political flux, Israel could again be governed by a Labor coalition or by a "government of national unity" including much of Labor.

For Israel it would require a government drawing its policy from the broad longings for peace of the Israeli electorate. For the Palestinians it would require a degree of seriousness in governance that has not been seen before.

Mr. Netanyahu governs on the basis of a superficially attractive yet finally dubious idea about the Palestinians: that they are bloody and irredeemably compromised.

Not that there is no factual merit or political heft in this proposition. But it is the counsel of despair. It presumes a cultural depth and continuity to Palestinian terrorism, a phenomenon that, I would argue, is in some measure political and changeable.

Anyway, a better alternative is available. I think it is the Rabin way. The martyred Israeli leader was tough on security, more accommodating (but no softie) on politics. His way could produce for responsible Palestinians something that could more easily be called a state.

It fences out the most prom-

ising anti-terrorist strategy: to give Palestinians a stake in a new order that will make them active partisans of coexistence, not, like Mr. Arafat now, alternately abortion and deciders of a shootout.

Haaretz, a newspaper in the

realm of the feasible.

There is a Netanya way and a Rabin way. The difference lies in the late Mr. Rabin's emerging readiness to take into account Palestinian political goals and to enlist and bolster the elements among the Palestinians that want to end the crusade against Israel and to get on with building a nation. That is a prospect well worth working for, and waiting for.

Seeing their first priority

councilor who drew up this cruel indictment and those who voted for it, but the gentler way of reproving them would be to point out the tritely recognized danger of generalization in almost any statement of supposed fact. Not all fat men are lazy and gluttonous. Obesity is in many a congenital habit of body, in others a disease.

1948: Spanish Border

PARIS — The French government announced last night [Feb. 7] a progressive reopening of the Spanish frontier that will start tomorrow at midnight with a resumption of normal passenger traffic by land, sea and air.

At the same time, postal, telephone and telegraph communications will be re-established. The frontier was closed in February, 1946, as a political protest against the regime of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Depression: A Surprising Risk Factor in Coronary Disease

By Sally Squires
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Through the centuries, poets and writers have poignantly described how extreme sadness — what is now called clinical depression — can lead to illness and even death. In classic literature, tragic characters took to their beds and died, presumably by the intensity of their depression.

Many doctors have also long recognized the role that emotions play in illness, noting that the will to survive can make a huge difference in survival. They also know that illness can have a profound psychological effect on patients. Now new research suggests that depression and heart disease are inextricably

linked in a potentially fatal combination. "Depression is a disease with an enormous impact on many people," said Alexander Glassman, co-author of a review article on depression and heart disease published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. "It takes an appalling toll, and now we see that not only does it affect your psychological health, it affects your physical health too."

In their article, Dr. Glassman and Dr. Peter A. Shapiro from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons point to five studies published in the past two years that found that physically healthy people who suffered from clinical depression were significantly more likely to develop heart disease than their nondepressed counterparts. In addition, a number of studies have shown that depressed patients face

nearly double the risk of a heart attack than those who are not depressed have.

Depression also seems to help determine how long people with heart disease will survive. Patients who are depressed after suffering a heart attack — either because they had previously suffered from depression or develop it as a result of their heart problems — also have a worse long-term prognosis.

Their risk of suffering a second heart attack is about three times higher than their happier counterparts, according to a study in the *Journal of Circulation* by a team of Belgian researchers.

In another study, Dr. Nancy Frasure-Smith and her colleagues at the Montreal Heart Institute tracked heart-attack survivors for 18 months. They found that those who were also clinically depressed faced up to three times

the risk of dying from another heart attack compared with their non-depressed counterparts.

For these reasons, "the need to find a safe and effective treatment for depressed patients with heart disease has intensified," said Bruce G. Pollock, director of the geriatric psychopharmacology program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a co-author of a report on a multicenter trial of drug treatments for depression and heart disease published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

It was a surprise," said Dr. Glassman, chief of clinical pharmacology at Columbia and a co-author of the CDC study. "We really did expect that the effect of depression on cardiovascular disease would either disappear or be very trivial, but when we analyzed

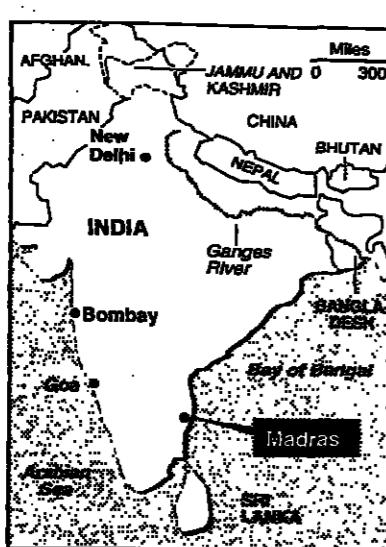
the data we found that it was strong."

The link between heart disease and depression shown in this and the other studies "raises two questions," he added. "Why does this happen, and how can we change it?"

At Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Robert M. Carney, a behavioral-medicine researcher and his colleagues found that depression was linked to changes in heart rate, which could help explain the increase in depression and heart disease.

Cardiologists had already shown that reductions in heart rate increased mortality, but Dr. Carney and his team also observed that the imbalance in brain chemicals or neurotransmitters that occurs in depression somehow altered the way the nervous system controlled the heart.

HIGH blood pressure, elevated blood cholesterol, diabetes and excess weight are known to increase the risk of heart disease. Now there are hints that depression may turn out to be as im-



Touching is allowed at the Madras Crocodile Bank, as long as the croc is small and has its mouth tied shut.

Fears Aside, Saving the Crocodile

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

MAHABALIPURAM, India — A glint of fascination shone in the face of the 10-year-old Yon Anikumar, as he looked into a mud pit here where more than 100 crocodiles and alligators representing 10 of the 23 existing species, including the three crocodile species, all considered endangered, that are native to India. Its income comes mainly from admission fees, but showing the leathery creatures to visitors is not its main mission. The bank was founded in 1976 by Mr. Whitaker's father, Romulus, an American who still directs the operation, and his mother, Zai, an Indian, as a way to save crocodiles from slaughter and possible extinction. They planned to breed them and restore native species to the wild.

In the years since the opening of the Madras Crocodile Bank, the Whitakers and their supporters have broadened their mission and adjusted their plans. They have concluded that in the face of poaching and widespread habitat destruction, one way to save many species is to make them economically valuable. Farming these creatures, they say, may be a means of insuring their survival. The Whitakers now hope to establish an industry in which Indians can make money by raising them and selling their meat and skin.

"She wasn't hurt, but she had to go to the French Embassy and try to convince them that a croc had eaten her a passport," said Nikhil Whitaker, a 19-year-old budding herpetologist who is an assistant curator here.

"Our main problem with visitors is that they're used to mammals that run

up and down in their cages," he said. "Crocs don't do that. They like to bask for hours, so it's tempting for people to do stupid things to get them to move."

The Madras Crocodile Bank, near the Bay of Bengal on India's southeastern coast, is home to 5,000 crocodiles and alligators representing 10 of the 23 existing species, including the three crocodile species, all considered endangered, that are native to India. Its income comes mainly from admission fees, but showing the leathery creatures to visitors is not its main mission. The bank was founded in 1976 by Mr. Whitaker's father, Romulus, an American who still directs the operation, and his mother, Zai, an Indian, as a way to save crocodiles from slaughter and possible extinction. They planned to breed them and restore native species to the wild.

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Thus far, neither their original goal nor their newer one looks realistic. The government banned the sale of crocodile products in 1975 and is reluctant to repeal the ban. Officials say they do

LANGUAGE

Don't Call a Pre-Geezer Near-Elderly

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "I'm the oldest of the baby boomers," President Clinton told a fund-raising gathering in Miami a couple of months ago. "I'm what you'd call *near-elderly*."

That location was evidently bruted about the White House at the time, because the president in January announced a proposal to extend government health insurance to people as young as 55. "The 3 million uninsured people in this group," wrote John M. Broder in *The New York Times*, "known by insurance statisticians as the 'near elderly,' are too young for Medicare."

This means that another age euphemism — one aimed at junior seniors — has reached maturity. It was first cited in an Associated Press dispatch in 1978 to describe those, in addition to the already elderly, urging additional Social Security benefits. Now *near-elderly* (usually hyphenated) is the fatalistic term embraced by middle-aged demographers — those from 40 to 60 or so.

Headline writers are not altogether happy about it. The Washington Post has tried the slightly shouter noun *almost-old* to refer to people aged 62 to 64, but this confers *old* on everybody above that, which causes great consternation, especially when life expectancy for Americans has jumped from 47 to 71 in this century.

Old is a dysphemistic no-no (unless you're *oldest-old*, in a category of those over 85, and wishing you were 80 again). That's a pity, the root of *old* is the Latin *alius*, "high, deep," and the word's provenance ought not to put off the vulnerable venerable.

Women who bridle at being put down as *no spring chicken* or *long in the tooth* prefer the arch of a certain

age. Men stretching their sideburns over their bald spots resist such sports terms as *losing a step or past his prime*, preferring *mature*, which has the connotation of deliciously ripe fruit.

"We prefer that the word *elderly* not be used at all," reports Tom O'Neil, at the American Association of Retired Persons. "And we try to avoid *senior citizens*, which, if not pejorative, is stereotyping." So what would be near-perfect? "We prefer *older Americans* or *mature Americans*," the AARP sends applications to people turning 50, a chilling reminder to recipients that their days of wine and roses may be passing, and accurately considers them

Another age euphemism — aimed at junior seniors — has reached maturity.

"older" than most of the population (though "mature" is not based on chronological age).

Near-elderly, despite its White House use, is not an official classification. "The term *elderly* has a common definition, because of repeated and relentless use," says Greg Spencer, chief of the population projections branch of the Census Bureau, "of meaning '65 or older.' So *near-elderly* might be 50 to 65 — but I'm just making this up."

"It doesn't have the record of use that *near-poor* does," says Richard Coorsh, at the Health Insurance Association about *near-elderly*, which the insurers don't use as a category.

The near-observant reader will note that the word's provenance ought not to put off the vulnerable venerable.

Women who bridle at being put

down as *no spring chicken* or *long in the tooth* prefer the arch of a certain

adjective (this is a *near* lucid piece), an adjective modifying a noun (my *nearest* and dearest friend), a preposition (don't come *near* me), or a verb (I *near* the end of this subject to turn to the grammar).

With this vague use of the word, I can see a bearded sandwich-sign man, attuned to the latest lingo, advertising: "Report! This is the *near* end."

What is it with *near* as a trendy substitute for *nearby*? Isn't *near* *elderly* what we mean? Doesn't the clipping of the *ly* result in a grammatical *near-miss*?

Near is called a "flat adverb," with the *ly* clipped off and morphing into the same form as its related adjective. "Drive slow, think different, do right, hang tough." Don't let this dual use get you down: the flat adverb is one of English's little confusions, and it sure (or surely — pick 'em) doesn't worry us.

Now we're going to get tricky and lose everybody. In the *elderly*, the article *the* transforms elderly from an adjective to a noun. (Same happens with the *rich*.)

Since *near* is an adjective meaning "close to," it works as a modifier of the functional noun, *elderly*. Now here is what I get from Sol Steinmetz, the great lexicographer: "This would not be true of *near*, which is an adverb, and would therefore modify *elderly* only if the latter were used as an adjective, as in 'many of them are *near* elderly.'"

Get it? Sol also likes the *near-elderly* because the two *ly* endings in the *near-elderly* fall discordantly on the ear: "The grammatically and euphonically suitable phrase is the *near-elderly*, not the *nearly elderly*."

Learn grammar, baby boomers. Fire off those synapses in your brains. Keeps us pre-geezers young.

New York Times Service

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Learn grammar, baby boomers. Fire off those synapses in your brains. Keeps us pre-geezers young.

A Vitamin Shield for the Heart?

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

Asparagus to Spinach

NEW YORK — A high intake of two B vitamins found in fruits, vegetables and other common foods appears to reduce by nearly half women's risk of suffering a heart attack, a new study has shown. The study also confirmed a protective effect on women's hearts of drinking moderate amounts of alcohol.

The study, conducted among more than 80,000 women who are nurses, is the first to show a direct link between these B vitamins, folate and B-6, and protection against coronary disease. It suggests that eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains or getting these B vitamins from supplements is as important as quitting smoking, lowering high cholesterol and controlling blood pressure in preventing premature death from the leading killer in the United States.

The funding, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, also suggests that the current Recommended Dietary Allowance of folate and B-6 for adults other than pregnant women is inadequate to provide maximum protection against heart disease. The National Academy of Sciences Food and Nutrition Board currently suggests that to prevent nutrient deficiencies, adults should consume 180 micrograms of folate and 1.6 milligrams of B-6 each day. But the most cardiac protection in the new study was achieved with daily intakes of more than 400 micrograms of folate and more than 3 milligrams of B-6. B vitamins from

either foods or supplements were found to be protective.

"Everyone should be at two to three times the current RDA for folate and B-6 to achieve the maximum reduction in risk," said Dr. Eric Rimm of the Harvard School of Public Health, who directed the study.

The exciting news is that a substantial reduction in risk can be achieved easily, without a dramatic change in diet," Dr. Rimm said. "You don't have to give up everything you eat. You just have to eat more foods like

fortified cold cereals, orange juice, spinach and other leafy greens, whole grains, bananas, potatoes, chicken and fish."

The Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the fortification of flour with folic acid, which is the form of folate used by the body and the form found in multivitamin supplements. Although the agency's primary goal was to prevent the birth of children with spinal deformities, fortification is also likely to increase significantly the folic acid intake among children and adults and thus should help protect against heart disease.

"The findings of the current study encourage the view that with intervention through supplementation, fortification, improved dietary intakes of folate and Vitamin B-6 and better food processing and distribution methods, the decline in U.S. cardiovascular mortality and morbidity will continue," Dr. Kilmer McCully wrote in an accompanying editorial.

The researchers said they expected that the findings would also apply to men. Studies in men and women have shown that folate and B-6 consumed through foods or through foods and supplements reduced levels of the amino acid homocysteine and protected against narrowing of the arteries that feed the brain.

Other studies had linked high levels of homocysteine in the blood to a greatly raised risk of suffering a heart attack. Homocysteine is believed to increase coronary risk by one or more of several mechanisms: damaging cells that line arteries, fostering blood clots and narrowing blood vessels by promoting growth of smooth muscle cells.

There myself, and am most grateful for that.

Heller, who is now in his early 70s, lived with his widowed mother and his brother and sister — many years later he learned that they were actually his half-siblings, from a previous marriage of their father's — in a four-room apartment in Coney Island, a "safe, insular and secure" neighborhood in the famous old Brooklyn resort, a place where "I never heard of a rape, an assault or an armed robbery." The residents were Italians or, in Heller's little corner of the world, Jews. They had little money, but they came into the world with the expectation that life would be hard, and they taught themselves to enjoy such pleasures and satisfactions as it offered them:

"Looking back, I find it something of a miracle that from such a beginning the four of us in my family separately and independently eventually found ourselves with enough money to satisfy our needs and our material wants. Our expectations, while varying considerably, were disciplined. We did not want what we could not hope to have, and we were not made bitter or envious by knowing of people who had much more. The traditional neighborhood Communists proselytized goes nowhere with us. Neither, I must record, did the dedicated anti-Communist ideologue, not then or later. We worked at what we could because we never doubted we had to work, and we felt fortunate indeed that we could find work."

They also found plenty of play. Coney Island had passed its heyday by the 1920s — though it was bright and glorious by contrast with the sad, dilapidated condition it now endures — but the two famous old amusement parks, Luna and Steeplechase, were still in business, and the beach was eternally inviting. It was simultaneously a resort and a neighborhood. "Even at this late date," Heller writes, "people I meet with a large stock of memories of visits to Coney Island still express surprise upon hearing that I grew up there, that families lived there, and still do, and that children were brought up there, and still are."

Indeed it is hard, at least if one is of a certain age, not to think of a childhood at Coney Island as something unique, precious and wonderful. Heller does little to disabuse us of that notion.

The picture he paints is of a close, happy, almost Edenic — if one can imagine that word applied to any aspect of New York City — community, a way station between ethnic distinctiveness and assimilation into the American mainstream, where children inherited and respected the traditions their parents brought to this country even as they learned to be Americans themselves.

</div

INTERNATIONAL

3 Nations Follow Kohl's Lead in Backing the U.S. in Standoff With Iraq

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

MUNICH — The Clinton administration gained political support Sunday in its confrontation with Iraq as the Dutch, Canadian and Polish governments echoed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's endorsement of U.S. determination to use armed force if necessary to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Signs of momentum among allied governments over U.S.-led military action also sharpened demands for more information from European politicians, who said they needed clearer explanations of the objectives of air strikes or other military options in Iraq to sway skeptical segments of public opinion in their countries.

"What will you do on the morning after?" was a question raised frequently this weekend by cabinet ministers, members of Parliaments, government officials and academics from a dozen European countries, Russia and the United States at a conference on international security in Munich.

Without offering any details of how Washington hoped to verify the disarmament of Iraq after a military campaign, Defense Secretary William Cohen told the Munich Conference on

Security Policy that U.S. power would be applied strongly enough to "reduce or curtail" any threat that Iraq could continue manufacturing chemical or biological warheads or the missiles to deliver them on nearby nations.

His phrasing, similar to that used recently by President Bill Clinton to describe U.S. military objectives in any campaign against Iraq, suggested that Washington was preparing public opinion for air strikes that would not eradicate Iraqi weapons-making capability.

Instead, according to officials in the audience, Mr. Cohen seemed to be describing a situation in which the United States would have to conduct a sustained bombing campaign that enabled missiles and warplanes to strike repeatedly at the same targets to destroy places suspected of housing facilities or stocks of toxins — and then knock out other facilities liable to be used to reconstitute weapons-making laboratories.

Referring to the likely operational difficulties, Fred Ike, a defense official in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, said Americans and their allies should be prepared for a long trial of military strength and for political tests.

"Since the only real exit strategy is the exit of Saddam Hussein, this confrontation is going to be open-ended in time," he warned.

As Mr. Cohen sought to pile up proof of Iraq's determination to acquire weapons of mass destruction, the tension surrounding the Iraq crisis spilled over onto the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's role in Bosnia and other trans-Atlantic issues, setting off blunt exchanges between U.S. legislators and their European counterparts.

"It should go without saying that the allies will support us on Iraq," said Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, warning of a backlash in Congress and U.S. public opinion if European countries failed to rally behind Washington.

Other U.S. senators, including Charles Robb, Democrat of Virginia, and Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, said support for a continued U.S. troop presence in Bosnia might suffer if Americans believed Europeans were turning their backs on a global issue as important as weapons proliferation in a rogue state such as Iraq.

Several U.S. officials described a mood of impatience, even irritation, among members of Congress over Europe's reluctance to spend more on security, including the cost of enlarging NATO.

But moves to ease U.S. concerns were quickly forthcoming from Germany, with Mr. Kohl offering strong backing to Mr. Clinton's policy of seeking to exhaust diplomacy and then use force

if necessary to meet the threat of Iraqi weapons.

Bonn had previously said little on the issue, which put the Germans in the position of having to side with Washington or with Paris, the leading Western critic of U.S. policy toward Iraq.

Mr. Kohl appeared to feel free of such political inhibitions Saturday, saying that Mr. Clinton "seemed to have a point about Iraq." He added that while no one had asked him, he was ready for German air bases to be used by U.S. and British warplanes if they went into operation against Iraq.

German opposition leaders, including Rudolf Schäping, the Social Democratic leader in the Bundestag, went just as far in supporting U.S. policy, which they said had been misrepresented in some European countries by factions that did not want to face the seriousness of weapons proliferation in Iraq.

In another gesture designed to soothe Washington, Mr. Kohl said Bonn was ready to maintain its current troop strength in the follow-on force to take over in June in Bosnia and was urging other countries to do the same — allowing the United States to pocket all the savings on troops. Bonn has called for the new force to be cut sharply from the current levels.

The German proposal is likely to be rejected

this week during NATO meetings, alliance officials said, because the United States will probably want to retain the present set-up and U.S. command, at least through national elections in Bosnia in September. But the German offer is likely to mute U.S. complaints about burden-sharing in Bosnia, they said.

Without saying how or when it might be possible to determine that diplomacy was dead and military attack had become the only option, the German offer of support on Iraq keynoted a more sympathetic European hearing to U.S. views than had been forthcoming outside Britain.

Assurances of political support — and probably practical help if needed — came from cabinet-level officials from the Netherlands, Canada and Poland.

The Dutch government has already shipped half of the nation's stock of gas masks to Israel as a gesture of solidarity.

Defense Minister Art Eggleton said Canada supported U.S. preparations for military strikes against Iraq and was considering whether it would take part in them.

"Military force can be used perhaps to ensure that UN resolutions are abided by," he said. "Canada is considering its possible participation in this matter."

BRIEFLY

Sierra Leone Capital Under Artillery Fire

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A heavy artillery bombardment broke out Sunday afternoon on the outskirts of Freetown while West African peacekeepers trying to restore the country's depredated government advanced toward the city, local radio reported.

A pirate radio station still loyal to the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah said the Nigerian-led peacekeepers were moving toward Freetown from Portee, about 10 kilometers away. The station, which is widely thought to be supported by the peacekeepers, urged civilians to stay off the streets.

The peacekeeping commander, however, denied in a telephone interview that his forces were on the offensive.

"We are only defending ourselves," Major General Timothy Shepild, a Nigerian said from Monrovia, Liberia, where he is based. "If they use small arms, we use small arms, if they use artillery, we use artillery."

Shortly after noon, heavy artillery fire could be heard on the edge of Freetown, with shells landing every couple minutes. It was not immediately clear which side was firing the weapons. (AP)

South Chad Gunmen Release 4 Frenchmen

PARIS — Four Frenchmen kidnapped by an armed group in Chad last week have been released and are in good health, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The four men, whose identities have not been released, were seized Tuesday near the southern town of Sarit by a group called the Union of Democratic Forces. French authorities said the group had made no demands for the men's release.

"Our four compatriots, in good health, should be back in N'Djamena today," the Foreign Ministry said. (AP)

Nuclear Aid to Ukraine Is Delayed as U.S. Seeks To Block Iran's Program

By David B. Ottaway
and Dan Morgan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration, acting to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions, has blocked the provision of American nuclear technology and fuel to Ukraine until it cancels plans to sell turbines needed to complete the first such Iranian power plant, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

The nearly yearlong diplomatic dispute has become a serious irritant in the otherwise close relationship developing between Washington and the second-most populous former Soviet republic.

It also is creating problems for American companies and complicating U.S. efforts to break Russia's long-standing control over Ukraine's nuclear-power sector.

Westinghouse Electric Corp. wants to bid on a \$1.2 billion project to complete two Russian-designed nuclear plants in Ukraine. But the impasse over the turbine sale has stalled U.S. approval of a nuclear cooperation agreement with Ukraine that would permit Westinghouse to sell technology, equipment and fuel to Kiev.

The dispute highlights the extent to which U.S. efforts to isolate Iran have come to define American policy toward an growing number of important European countries. Russian and French companies already are under threat of congressionally mandated sanctions for helping Iran develop its energy sector.

In the case of Ukraine, U.S. diplomatic efforts are focused on preventing completion of a 1,000-megawatt atomic plant in Bushehr, Iran, now being constructed by Russian companies under an \$850 million contract. Russia planned to acquire the turbines for the plant from the Ukrainian company Turbotom.

Iran has promised to accept international safeguards against nuclear proliferation at the facility, but the Clinton administration contends that the plant is related to a secret Iranian plan to develop nuclear weapons.

In a bid to prevent the sale of the turbines to Russia, the Clinton administration in December offered the Ukrainian government a package of small business loans, Export-Import Bank credits and joint ventures, along with military and space cooperation and the prospect of future access to U.S. nuclear fuel, according to government sources.

The aid package is intended to compensate Ukraine for hundreds of millions of dollars in lost business if it forgoes the turbine sale, and to set the stage for intensified economic cooperation with the United States.

In return, however, Ukraine would have to cancel plans to supply the turbines to Russia.

The dispute is testing U.S. relations with the government in Kiev, which, struggling to consolidate its six-year-old independence, now finds itself caught between Moscow and Washington.

Along with carrots, the Clinton administration also is brandishing a stick.

Vice President Gore, who is in charge of policy toward Ukraine, has told President Leonid Kuchma that if the turbine deal goes forward, the U.S. government will not sign an accord on peaceful nuclear cooperation — a congressionally mandated condition for Ukraine to acquire much-needed U.S. technology and fuel for the two unfinished nuclear reactors, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

But Russian officials are trying to persuade Ukraine to go ahead with the turbine sale. They have warned Turbotom that it could forfeit future deals with the company if it backs out of the deal, according to Yuri Shcherbak, the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States.

At the same time, he said, Russia has offered its own credits and technology to complete two Ukrainian reactors at Rivne and Khrushchevsk, and later to supply the fuel to operate them. This would cement Ukraine's total reliance on Russia in the nuclear field.

Ukraine is vulnerable because nearly half its electricity is generated by nuclear power. Moreover, Mr. Kuchma faces a serious challenge in March parliamentary elections from leftist parties critical of his cooperation with Washington.

Also at risk is a budding Ukrainian relationship with Israel, which opposes

the turbine sale because of the threat that Iranian nuclear arms could pose to Israeli security.

Last April, Mr. Kuchma told the visiting Israeli trade minister, Natan Sharansky, that Ukraine would not supply the turbines. In August, however, a senior Ukrainian official indicated that the turbine sale was under consideration even though it would "complicate relations with our partners."

In an interview last month, Mr. Shcherbak suggested that his country was caught in the middle of a U.S.-Russian tug of war. "The best way is to have the United States and Russia directly solve this problem," he said.

The pending turbine sale to Russia is not covered by U.S. sanctions laws, a senior State Department official acknowledged. Those sanctions apply to foreign companies investing in Iran's energy sector.

Last fall, however, Congress voted to hold up half of U.S. aid to Russia until President Bill Clinton certifies that the Russian government has stopped nuclear cooperation with Iran. So far, the Russians have shown no willingness to comply, U.S. officials say.

Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, a strong Ukraine advocate who is chairman of the Senate subcommittee that drafts the annual foreign aid spending bill, warned in a recent interview that an unduly rigid approach toward Ukraine could drive the country back into Russia's arms.

The belligerent approach doesn't make sense in this situation," Mr. McConnell said. "All you have to do is look at a map to figure out how important the Ukraine is to stopping a resurgent Russia. It's big and geopolitically significant."

With the new deployments, the United States will send six more F-117 Stealth fighters, doubling the number based there since the current crisis with Iraq first flared last autumn. An additional B-1 bomber will join a pair of the bombers in Bahrain. Mr. Cohen also sent six more B-52s to Diego Garcia, the British outpost in the Indian Ocean, raising to 14 the total number of B-52s there.

All of those — along with cruise missiles and additional fighters in Kuwait and Bahrain and aboard American carriers in the Gulf — would be even more essential to any attack.



A woman buying cases of water off a truck in Kuwait, where many are stocking goods in case of an Iraqi attack.

IRAQ: Saudis Won't Help in a Raid, but U.S. Gets NATO Support

Continued from Page 1

That brings the total in the region to well above 300. Most of the new aircraft are going to Kuwait or Bahrain; two Gulf states that have signaled a willingness to allow an attack.

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Another official traveling in Mr. Cohen's party said those requests remained on the table and would be a focus of the meetings with the Saudi rulers Sunday night. The senior defense official said it was likely Saudi Arabia would allow American bombers based elsewhere to fly over Saudi airspace, though that was not yet settled.

Mr. Cohen also said Saudi Arabia would continue to allow American and a few British and French jets to patrol the flight exclusion zone over southern Iraq.

Mr. Cohen also left open the possibility that some American aircraft based at Prince Sultan Air Base southeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh, could provide support for fighters launched from Kuwait, Bahrain and the carriers. Those could include AWAC surveillance and communication jets and tankers for nuclear refueling.

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"We do expect support in the region itself, and we would hope the Saudis would continue to be as helpful as they have been," he said.

Saudi Arabia is one of the United States' closest Arab allies and a major regional power. During the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia provided a crucial base for the 500,000 American and allied troops that ultimately routed Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait in 1991.

However, without the violent occupation of another Arab state and with many Arabs sympathetic to the plight of the Iraqis after seven years of UN sanctions, Saudi Arabia has found the idea of another round of strikes on Iraq unacceptable.

"I think most people think a military option is not the preferable option," Mr. Cohen said. "We have said that ourselves."

Iran Court Ratifies Death for Journalist

Reuters

TEHRAN — Iran's Supreme Court has ratified the death sentence for Morteza Firooz, a prominent newspaper editor convicted of spying, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Mr. Firooz, a former editor-in-chief of the English-language daily Iran News, has been in custody on spying charges since May.

Iran has not named any country for which Mr. Firooz was alleged to have spied, but Iranian newspapers, which last year carried brief reports of his then-rumored arrest, had said he was accused of spying for the United States.

said about 1,000 people had taken part in the march.

Rightist and leftist activists had clashed Saturday as thousands of supporters of a far-right party congregated in Passau to promote their cause before the September national election.

U.S. and Mexico Vow Joint Attack on Drugs

MEXICO CITY — The United States and Mexico have declared a joint attack against drug trafficking, less than two weeks before the Clinton administration is to announce its decision on certifying Mexico as a cooperative partner in the struggle against drugs.

The countermotives strategy, made public in both countries' capitals, reiterates many old promises — some never kept — and makes new vows of cooperation.

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In about two weeks, Mr. Clinton is expected to recommend to Congress that Mexico be certified as a reliable partner in efforts against drug trafficking. The head of the White House anti-drug office Barry McCaffrey, disputed assertions that the release of the report was timed to bolster that recommendation, which would allow Mexico to retain U.S. economic assistance.

(WP)

They have suggested the criticism of them comes from Clinton partisans, an accusation that is almost indisputable, since by definition many of the people implicated by the investigation have, or once had, close ties to Mr. Clinton.

Some experienced prosecutors say the concerns about Mr. Starr's methods arise simply because most people do not know the methods prosecutors use regularly.

"There is a reason to worry about the heavy-handedness of prosecutors, especially in major cases," said Philip Heymann, a Harvard law professor who was Janet Reno's first deputy attorney general. "But it is also true that the normal techniques of prosecutors are far more aggressive than most people think."

Still, even some former prosecutors who have been criticized themselves for aggressive techniques said some of Mr. Starr's tactics were troubling.

Thomas Puccio, a defense lawyer who has been a federal prosecutor, said that

Mr. Starr's "wiring" of Linda Tripp to capture Ms. Lewinsky on tape suggested Mr. Starr was using excessive zeal to try to gain evidence of relatives' minor offenses.

Mr. Starr is believed to be pursuing suggestions that Mr. Clinton might have lied in a deposition in the Paula Jones sexual misconduct civil suit about whether the president had a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky or might have sought to have her lie.

■ Adviser Sees a "Witch Hunt."

Paul Begala, a Clinton adviser, was harshly critical Sunday of the Starr investigation, calling it an "ongoing witchhunt."

"There are real questions about this investigation," he said on NBC-TV. Mr. Begala said he thought Mr. Starr had "become corrupt in the sense that Lord Acton meant when he said 'Absolute power corrupts absolutely.'"

He asserted that leaks were coming from Mr. Starr's office "that might be criminal" and that were grossly misleading. "So far, the score on leaks has been a whole lot of lies and not very much fact," he said.

is thus, while rightists regard themselves as repositories of those same values claimed by Hitler — industriousness, cleanliness and racial superiority — the left and foreigners are called parasites who feed on the Aryan people.

Unlike young people in Western Germany, whose education drums home an anti-Nazi message, moreover, young Easterners are more conditioned by the old East German propaganda that denied historical responsibility for the Third Reich.

International Education

Quest for Standards Splits U.S. Educators Opponents Want More Freedom For Schools to Set Own Agendas

By Edward B. Fiske

WASHINGTON — They're chanting a new mantra in American education: "academic standards."

Raising the achievement levels of American students to "world-class standards" has become a major priority for President Bill Clinton, business leaders and other educational reformers. They see it as a key to making sure American workers will be competitive in the emerging global economy.

The president has made "standards-based reform" the centerpiece of an ambitious education program that includes the first-ever national tests of reading and mathematics. Mr. Clinton plugged the testing program in his recent State of the Union message to Congress, declaring, "Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics."

For Republican leaders, political conservatives and many grass-roots organizations, however, the push for higher standards is nothing more than a misguided effort to extend the long arm of

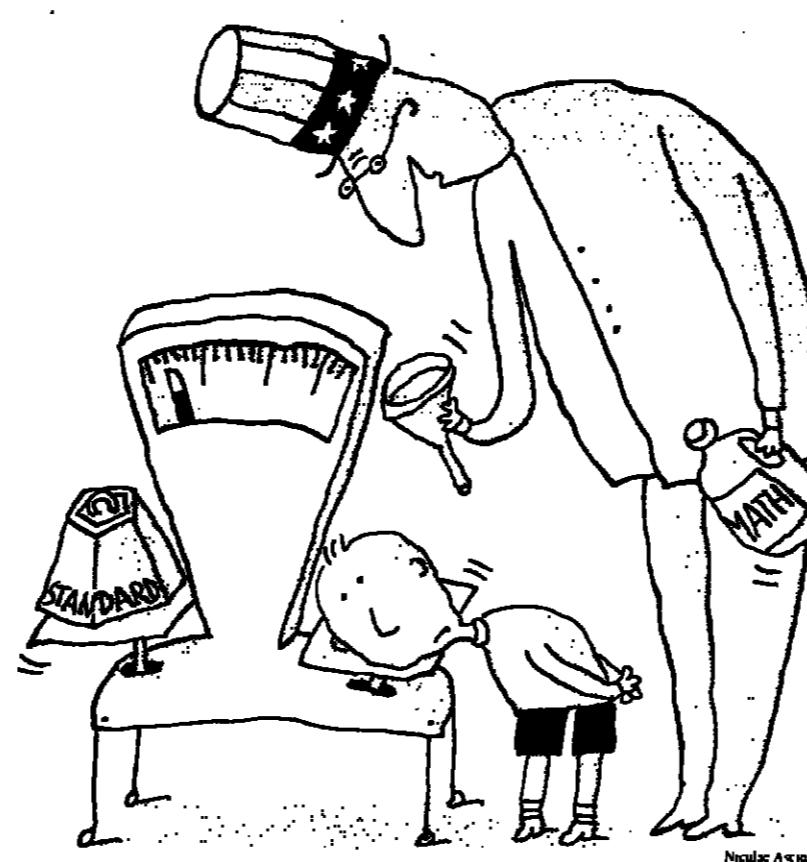
the federal government into public education and to undermine innovation at the local level. Rather than impose new "top-down" mandates, they say, government policy should be directed at giving schools more freedom to set their own academic agendas.

Whatever their position, however, most educators and political leaders would agree that the struggle for standards has become the newest fault line in national education policy.

The concept of academic standards is simple. Standards are documents that list what students at various grade levels should know and be able to do. It is also a relatively new concept for educators and one that tends to baffle non-Americans.

Most developed countries have national curricula and national tests, so the question of what schools teach rarely arises. In the United States, however, public education is constitutionally a function of state and local government, so there has never been a national debate, much less a consensus, over what students should be learning and how well they should be learning it.

The situation began to change in 1983 when a national report, entitled "A Na-



Europe Stakes Out 'Knowledge Society' EU Stresses Multimedia Needs But Warns Against Exclusions

By Barry James

BRUSSELS — Wrestling with a record postwar level of unemployment, the European Commission says bluntly that civilization based on the production of physical goods has gone for good and that the European Union will increasingly become a "knowledge society."

The commission's blueprint for the future, known as Agenda 2000, states that innovation, research, education and training jointly form a fundamental pillar of the EU's internal policies.

"Real wealth creation will henceforth be linked to the production and dissemination of knowledge and will depend first and foremost on our efforts in the field of research, education and training and on our capacity to promote innovation," the commission said in a recent document called "Towards a Europe of Knowledge."

The commission, the executive arm of the European Union, said the 15-nation community must commit itself to lifelong learning by providing "broad access to education and its permanent updating."

The commission warned, however, that emphasis on education based on information technology could create new forms of exclusions in society, dividing the cyber-haves from the have-nots. It said the knowledge society must

include those who leave compulsory schooling with inadequate qualifications and provide training for the unemployed as well as strengthen participation in apprenticeship systems.

At the same time, the commission has stressed the need to introduce information technology at an early age. Last year, in a project demonstrating how the new technology could be introduced into the curriculum, it sponsored a project to link together 10,000 schools across the Internet in a program called Netdays. Primary school students in Brussels, for example, produced an on-line newspaper with students in Poitiers, France, and a cross-border chemistry experiment with students in Luxembourg.

The program was concerned as much with overcoming computer phobia among teachers as stimulating the enthusiasm of children. About 2,800 teachers, three-quarters of whom described themselves as computer illiterate, attended introductory courses as a preparation for the on-line week.

Multimedia technology is considered particularly valuable in broadening the horizons of schoolchildren in remote areas. In the French Alps Maritimes region, for example, students in scattered settlements edit a weekly electronic newspaper called Lundimat that educators say has improved their written language and their aptitude for team work.

France recently approved a program, costing 1 billion francs (\$160 million) a year over three years, to introduce computers, software and training into the education system, ranging from nursery schools to universities. With contributions from regional governments, the total cost of the program could reach 15 billion francs in one of the most sweeping programs in Europe to introduce information technology into the general education system.

Claude Allegre, the minister of national education, said the plan was designed to avoid the mistakes of their written language and their aptitude for team work.

Continued on Page 14

the nation's students would be "first in the world in mathematics and science achievement by the year 2000."

Since then virtually every state has raised the educational ante by drawing up some form of state-level standards. Many states have backed their new

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West Braces for Fallout From Asian Crisis

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — Economic turmoil in Asia will play havoc with the flow of Asian students to English-speaking countries for advanced education, according to education officials in Western and Pacific capitals.

By the time the full impact of the Asian currency crises hits enrollments next summer, officials said last week, the United States and Britain, which have the lion's share of Asian students, will be hit hard. Worst off of all could be Britain, which may lose up to half of its currently enrolled 18,000 Malaysian students, the largest national group in British institutions.

The near-collapse of the currencies in some countries means that many foreign

students, most of whom pay their own way or find sponsorship in their own countries, now face sharply higher costs. Except for a small number who qualify for U.S. financial assistance, the cost of a year's tuition and living expenses on a Western campus could effectively double.

Ironically, the crisis could benefit Australia, Education Minister David Kemp said last month. The Australian dollar has strengthened less dramatically against most Asian currencies (and itself weakened against the British pound), improving its edge in travel, tuition fees and living costs over most other Anglo-Saxon countries.

Fast-developing Asian countries have provided strong demand for higher education abroad, usually in English and particularly in business management. For host institutions — and host

countries — these fee-paying foreigners have become increasingly important. Long seen as a plus for intellectual diversity, foreign students have now become a competitive stake in international trade. Higher education is the fifth largest service sector export of the United States. It brought in \$7 billion last year on college tuition, board and living expenses, according to the Department of Commerce.

John Meyers, director of development at the Bank Street College of Education in New York City, said the bottom line was grave everywhere. The fiscal crisis in Asia, he said, "is likely to have a profound impact on the number of students able to consider and afford education opportunities outside of their borders."

U.S. institutions lead the world this year in foreign enrollments with nearly

500,000 students, more than half of them from Asia. The 276,000 Asians were led by Japan (46,000), followed by China (42,000), Korea (37,000), India (31,000), Taiwan (30,000), Thailand (13,500) and Hong Kong (11,000).

Among these groups, the most vulnerable are clearly the Koreans and the Thais, followed by Hong Kong Chinese. Even the Japanese will be hit by the fall in the yen against the U.S. dollar.

A similar crisis arose in 1979 when the Iranian revolution cut off Tehran's support for Western education for young

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

How Do You Do When It Comes to Choosing a Course in English?

By Barbara Wall

MANCHESTER, England — This summer thousands of language students will travel to Britain and the United States to learn English to prepare for university or to further their careers. But, according to educationalists, a significant proportion will waste their time and money on an unsuitable or second-rate language program.

A spokesman for the British Council in London said that a glitzy brochure and an impressive-sounding name can belie poor teaching standards and outmoded methods of instruction. However, he added: "Most complaints are leveled not at the quality of the teaching establishment, but at the content of the language program. Many students have problems identifying what their needs and expectations are and end up on the wrong course."

There are about 1,000 language schools in Britain and a similar number in the United States. The cost of a typical week's tuition can range from \$200 to more than \$1,000 depending on the for-

mat of the program and class size. Add to these fees accommodation expenses and students could be contemplating an outlay of well over \$5,000 for a four-week program of study in London or New York.

One way to tell if a British school is all that it advertises itself to be is to check out its credentials with the British Council in London, which runs an accreditation program. Surprisingly, only one quarter of language schools in England have British Council recognition.

An American association of teachers and administrators — known by the acronym TESOL — is in the process of setting up an accreditation program for American language schools, but it will not be fully operational until summer 1999.

Another organization which offers accreditation to U.S.-based language schools is the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.

For financial and practical reasons, many students prefer to study at a language school in their home country. The U.S. government has maintained close links with about 40 binational cultural

centers in Europe, Asia and South America, which offer English language tuition to nationals.

The list of binational centers was probably the closest students would get to a list of U.S. government-sanctioned language schools, according to Tom Miller, chief of the English language programs division with the Department of Education in Washington.

Mr. Miller said, "These centers were originally set up by the American government to improve cultural relations with other countries. Though they are now privately owned, there is usually at least one board member that is in some way connected to the American Embassy."

The U.S. government also sponsors and administers about 12 language programs in the Middle East and Africa. The hourly fees, which are between 50 cents and \$4.50, are reportedly among the lowest of any international language school.

The British Council has a worldwide network of more than 100 English language teaching centers. Tuition fees tend toward the high end of the range, but the

quality of the teaching and the educational resources are considered by many in the industry to be second to none.

The established international language schools such as Inlingua, Multilingua and Berlitz also offer a full range of English language programs in most countries, but there is, as yet, no independent international organization which vets these schools. A spokesperson for TESOL suggested that students might like to contact a local TESOL representative and ask for a list of reputable schools and programs in their area.

SHE added: "Word of mouth is usually the best way to select a school, but students should get an idea of what to expect from a program by checking out class sizes, academic staff profile, academic resources — does the school design its own teaching materials, for example? — and the teachers support network."

EF International Language schools is the world's largest private education organization. The general English programs that it offers are mirrored by many other international schools. They in-

clude an intensive program for students who need to learn a language for professional or academic reasons as quickly as possible, a principle program which gives comprehensive tuition in the essential language disciplines and a summer program which concentrates on understanding and speaking English in practical situations.

Carol Anderson, a freelance teacher of English who lives in Paris, said that the majority of English language students opt for a general program without really understanding its focus. She said:

"Many of the generalist programs concentrate on developing conversational skills and pay scant attention to grammatical structure. If students just want to converse with the tourists, then a conversational English course will probably suffice, but if they want more out of the program, they should choose one that leads to a qualification."

Those who need to improve their English language skills in order to be accepted for a place at university will generally be steered toward a course that leads to an internationally recognized qualification. The Test of English as a

Foreign Language is an American examination and a high score in this test needs to be attained to gain entry to most American universities.

The University of Cambridge language exams are also internationally recognized by a wide range of academic and professional institutions.

Ms. Anderson said: "Some schools have designed their own academic tests for students. The successful completion of the Berlitz academic examination, for example, will open the doors to many universities in Europe and the United States. But I would generally caution people against opting for a customized course if they haven't yet selected their university."

These days it is even possible to learn a language in cyberspace. EF International is one of a growing number of language schools to offer on-line English courses. It has also designed a forum — EF EnglishTown — to enable people from all over the world to meet and chat in English.

BARBARA WALL is a journalist specializing in personal finance.

A Little English Goes Far in Seoul

By Don Kirk

SEOUL — From 7 A.M. to well into the evening, in hundreds of small classrooms across the country, young

Koreans are struggling to learn English conversation.

It's a battle they believe they must wage in order to compete for jobs or job promotions — although dwindling funds in a period of economic turmoil have forced

many to abandon the quest. "Koreans know we very seriously need English-speaking capability," said Chung Young Sam, president of YBM Sisa-Yong-o-sa, a language institute of "hakwon."

Its 600 teachers teach about 20,000 students, mostly young people in college or first jobs, in 10 schools in the Seoul metropolitan area.

"Of course, our enrollment has been going down during our economic crisis," said Mr. Chung, "but students know they have to have an interest in learning English all the more at this time when we have a cash crunch."

He and colleagues at other English language schools in Korea say that, as companies are forced to downsize, those employees with even a little English are more likely to hold onto their jobs than those without.

According to Mr. Chung, most students are trying to pass a test administered by the

YBM, which set up its own Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey, called the TOEIC, or Test of English for International Communications.

There are about 130 registered language schools and perhaps 10 times as many nonregistered ones in South Korea.

At the Pagoda Foreign Language Institute, which has about 20,000 students at several facilities in Seoul and one in Pusa, Park Chan Young, its executive director, admits that South Korea's financial crisis has had an adverse effect.

"We're affected negatively by the IMF," he said. "It's difficult now. In the near future, we're expecting many more difficulties." He was referring to the tough conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund as part of its \$60 billion bailout package for the country.

Steven Chung, who set up his own Oe Dae Language Institute last August before the onset of economic turmoil, says he hasn't had any "serious damage from the IMF economy."

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He claims to be prospering with 2,700 students, half of his capacity. "Our break-even point is 1,500 students."

He added, "It's really hard to get a job under the IMF economy, but if they can use a computer and speak English, they can get a job."

A more difficult problem than recruiting students may be finding teachers willing to work for about 1,200,000 Korean won a month plus limited housing, usually in

apartments with other teachers. Two years ago, the salary was about \$1,500 a month, now it is about \$750 a month.

He added, "I came here to make some money, but if I wanted to make real money, I wouldn't do it."

The academic director at the YBM branch, Dan Grindle, an American, did not think the large language schools would have difficulty recruiting for some time, but he added that "a lot of smaller

ones are going out of business and teachers are looking for jobs."

Still, he noted, "It's a little difficult getting teachers to come over from the States or Canada right now."

At the Pagoda Academy, Erich Jacoby said he had arrived on a one-year contract from Shelburne, Ontario, along with his wife, who teaches at another institute. He said the school raised pay by seven percent a few weeks ago to help compensate for won devaluation.

Mr. Jacoby considers himself lucky: "Where my wife works, they don't give raises. They try to squeeze as much as they can. Their starting salary goes down, and the hours you work are longer. This place is really good as far as institutes are concerned."

Some of the teachers wonder, though, how much the students really learned, and why so few Koreans are able to speak English even though so many have taken language courses of one sort or another.

The problem lies in the enormous difference between English and Korean in both grammar and pronunciation.

"Students are at the low level usually," said Mr. Park.

"The grammatical structure is reversed. It's very hard. They don't have a chance to speak English usually."

Mr. Jacoby added: "Koreans have been told it's important to learn English. Maybe 20 percent of them enjoy it. For the rest, it's a burden. The languages are so dissimilar, they aren't going to progress a great deal."

DON KIRK reports for the International Herald Tribune from Seoul.

At the Oe Dae Language Institute in Seoul, a teacher interviews a student to determine her level in English.

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English?

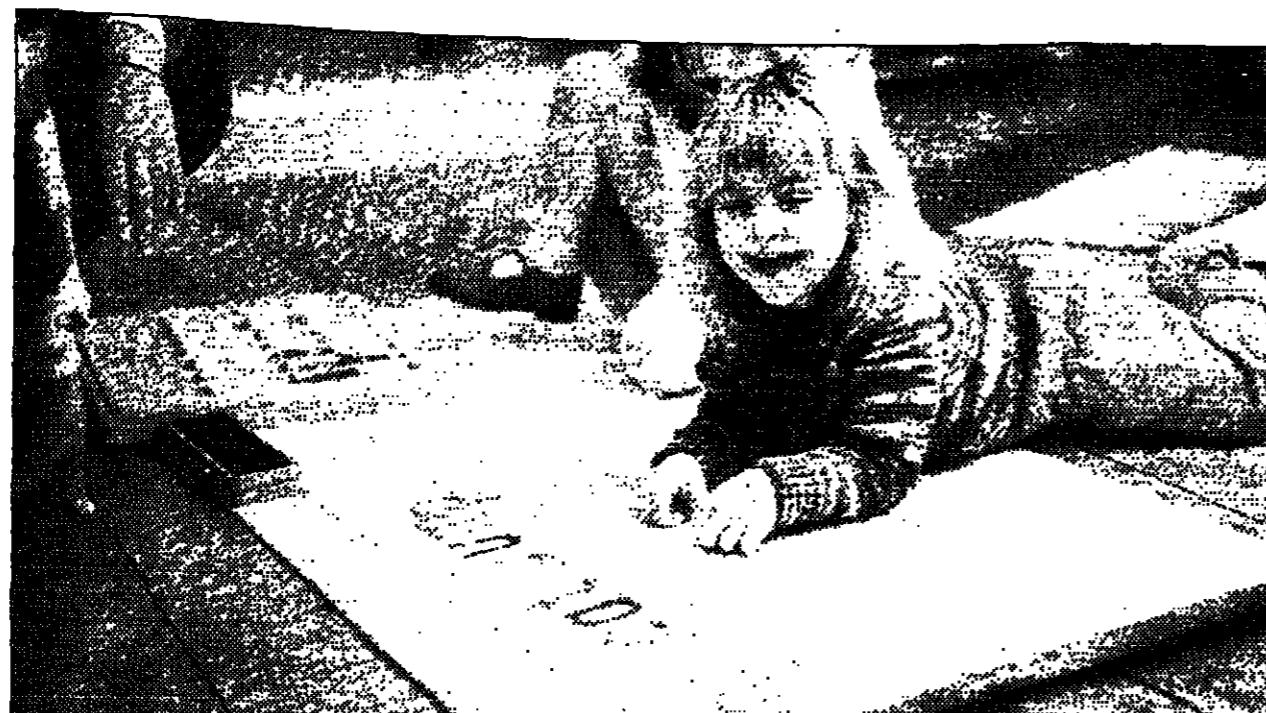
Language is an American education and a high score in this test is to be attained to gain entry to most universities.

University of Cambridge examinations are also internationally recognized by a wide range of academic institutions.

Anderson said: "Some schools have designed their own academic tests. The successful completion of a Waldorf academic examination, for example, will open the doors to universities in Europe and the United States. But I would generally caution against opting for a customized university, if they haven't yet selected their courses."

These days it is even possible to learn English in cyberspace. EF English Language is one of a growing number of language schools to offer on-line English courses. It has also designed a forum — EnglishTown — to enable people all over the world to meet and practise English.

BARBARA WALL is a journalist based in Paris.



A pupil at a Montessori school. The definition of what makes a true Montessori school can vary quite a bit.

The Many Faces of Montessori

By Barbara Rosen

LONDON — The word "Montessori" can produce an astonishing array of responses, from "too lax" to "too strict" to "cultish." The images range from preschoolers running wild to others forced to sit still with folded hands.

Neither extreme approaches the truth, say Montessorians, who explain that such misconceptions have arisen largely because the Montessori name is not well protected by trademark. Just about anyone can hang up a shingle and call a school "Montessori," however tenuous its links to Maria Montessori and her ideas. More than one school has been known to operate with "Montessori" in its name and no authentic training beyond its staff.

And even among the more established and respected Montessorians, the definition of what makes a true Montessori school can vary quite a bit.

The Montessori approach to education holds that children should develop at their own natural pace. Teachers, or "directresses," are there to help and encourage, letting the child choose his or her own activities, in a noncompetitive atmosphere. Montessori students aren't separated by grades but are grouped with other ages, with respect and social responsibility stressed as much as individuality.

PARENTS seeking a Montessori school can quickly end up lost in an acronymic alphabet soup. Although Montessori public schools do exist in, for example, the United States and the Netherlands, for the most part they are private. And there is no single, official accrediting organization, international or nationally.

"The best thing parents can do is look for schools which in their opinion fulfill the conditions they consider a Montessori school should have," says Renilde Montessori, general secretary of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) in Amsterdam, founded by her grandmother, Maria, in 1929.

"Parents send their children to Montessori schools for a colorful variety of reasons," she said. "The range is from uninformed parents doing so because the school is down the road, to highly knowledgeable, well-informed parents who make the deliberate choice to send their children to a Montessori school because they believe in the pedagogy."

"It is important that the school's philosophy and that of the parents should be in harmony," she said. "AMI is quite convinced that excellent Montessori schools exist not only within its organization, but also elsewhere." AMI has

a U.S. branch that accredits schools there, and is finalizing a similar program in Canada.

From the beginning, a century ago, people who heard Maria Montessori speak were enthused by her ideas and established societies, schools, training centers and other types of organizations and institutions under the name Montessori," says Ms. Montessori.

"A few individuals remained within her ken," she said. "But the majority functioned independently, some continuing to follow her pedagogy as fully as possible, others adapting it to suit their needs or those of their environment. Yet others branched out to create totally new methods."

As with schools, "Montessori" teaching colleges can vary enormously. "They're opening up 10 a penny on every corner," says Lynn Lawrence, director of training at the Maria Montessori Training Organization, the AMI teachers' college in London. "There's no way of stopping that."

Points of departure have

In the United States, the

Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (Macte) has accredited 118 teacher-education institutions (though no correspondence courses), mostly in the United States but also worldwide. It does not accredit schools, but members say its stamp helps parents gauge teachers' qualifications.

Maria Montessori founded AMI to give structure to her work during her lifetime, and to ensure that it would be carried on according to her directives after her death," Ms. Montessori said. "Whether other groups or individuals pursue her principles unadulterated or not, for ethical or other reasons, is not, cannot be, AMI's concern."

"It would require a small army to keep track of all Montessori activities going on around the world," she added.

BARBARA ROSEN is a freelance journalist based in London.

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

Eastern Europe Takes to Steiner

By Rick Smith

PARIS — When the collapse of communism set the vast Soviet school system adrift, its bewildered educators had to search for new models and a few became intrigued with an obscure Western philosopher.

They quickly realized that they were not the first to come under the spell of Rudolf Steiner, the enigmatic Austrian who died in 1925 and had early in the century devised a broadly holistic and unique approach to education focused on the individual child. Steiner's alternative method is today used in a system of 710 so-called Waldorf kindergartens, primary and secondary schools with 130,000 students in six continents and 38 countries.

The schools get state subsidies in such countries as Germany and the Netherlands and often are located in affluent and sophisticated settings like Ann Arbor, Michigan, Boulder, Colorado, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the United States or in Tuebingen and Goettingen in Germany.

Such global scope means that the headquarters of the Waldorf system in Stuttgart is accustomed to interest from far afield but even it was taken aback when a trickle of inquiries began coming in from places like Bashkiria and Kyrgyzstan. A school inspector from St. Petersburg and the deputy minister of education of Georgia even traveled to Stuttgart.

"We became aware that there was a real hunger for openness in the education system in the first flush of freedom and our approach appealed to them," said Bruno Sandkuhler, a teacher in a Steiner school in Stuttgart and an official in various Steiner organizations.

"Under the tsars we had religion and under communism we had an idea, but suddenly we had nothing and needed a moral compass,"

said Lena Shubina, a teacher in St. Petersburg. "There are drugs and there is violence without even a properly functioning justice system, and we need urgently to focus on moral character in our education."

Over the last decade, 18 Waldorf schools have sprung up across Russia, 13 in Hungary, 10 in Romania, and 7 each in Estonia and the Czech Republic.

What strikes such a chord in both St. Petersburg and Santa Fe? No doubt the same features that have also occasionally raised quizzical eyebrows among some mainstream educators.

Rudolf Steiner believed education should be geared toward developing the child's total human potential — manual and social as well as cerebral. The focus is on motor skills in early years and shifts to more intense academic instruction later. Children are generally not taught to read until age 6 or 7. Activities such as sculpture, music, organic gardening and work with natural textiles are integral parts of the program. Both boys and girls learn to knit and crochet.

Computers don't figure in instruction as a rule until secondary school.

"We're not retrograde or Luddite but we don't follow the latest hot gizmo either," said David Alsop, chairman of the Steiner schools in North America. "People teach people."

Students in primary schools ideally have the same teacher for six to eight years, resulting in a high degree of individual attention. Under such conditions, some children are able to overcome major handicaps. A child so hyperactive that he needed regular medication, for example, was able to drop those treatments after six months in a Steiner school in France.

There is a special focus on

classical culture and national epics, both on reading lists and in the frequent class plays in which all students are required to play roles. Goethe and Shakespeare get attention in all Waldorf schools, but schools in various countries also include their own national classics.

But Steiner's ultimate message fosters individualism rather than any sort of forced group think. Since anthroposophists do not proselytize, teachers in the Waldorf schools do not have to know any more about Steiner than his underlying beliefs about education.

Some graduates and educators note that the system bears the heavy imprint of a thinker who was proud to be at variance with some of the assumptions of the current century. "A lot of people send young children through the system because they value the ideals but wonder whether the later schooling will really prepare students for the rough and tumble of the world as it is," said one German teacher.

The final verdict rests with teachers and parents, but the devoted core of the Waldorf community, now in the East as well as the West, appears to be convinced that many successes in that rough-and-tumble world could learn much from a Steiner classroom.

RICK SMITH is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

STEINER believed it was important that people of both high and low ability and from all income levels share the same classroom. In fact, most children come from fairly wealthy homes since tuition ranges from \$6,000 to \$9,000 in the United States, for example. But the schools, which are generally self-financed in countries where they try to offer scholarships.

With such a novel approach to education, it may not be surprising that the Waldorf schools have had to contend with accusations that they are part of a cult. Since Steiner also made novel contributions in fields ranging from medicine to agriculture

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

Britain's Vision for 21st Century: All Schools Linked by Internet

By Tom Buerkle

ONDON — Britain has long considered itself to be at the forefront of information technology, from the pioneering research conducted at Cambridge University's Computer Laboratory to putting information technology on the required curriculum of primary and secondary schools in 1995, the first major industrial country to do so.

Now, the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has set a new goal with far-reaching consequences: creating a National Grid for Learning that will connect all of the country's schools to the Internet and give all students an e-mail address by 2002. Mr. Blair has taken advice recently from Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, and the government last month launched a prototype of the grid with a Virtual Teacher Center, a web site that aims to spread good teach-

ing practices and offer advice on raising targets for numeracy and literacy.

For Kim Howells, the undersecretary of state for education, the program is a simple recognition of the pervasive role of information technology in society, and will ensure that the nation's youths have the skills and knowledge to work in the 21st century. "I don't see how we can keep on pretending that we don't have to prepare kids" for university and the workplace, where computer literacy is fast becoming a necessity, he said.

Many building blocks are already in place. Mr. Howells said about 20 percent of the country's 40,000 schools, including the vast majority of secondary schools, are connected to the Internet, many with their own web sites. Britain also has more computers in its secondary schools — one for every 8.5 students in 1996 — than any Group of Seven country, and it lags only behind Canada and the United States for primary schools, according to Research Machines PLC.

the country's biggest provider of Internet service and educational software to schools.

While there is little hard evidence that information technology itself raises educational standards, most early reports from the classroom are positive.

"We've seen a tremendous improvement in learning generally," said Jim Donnelly, head teacher at Litherland High School near Liverpool. The school has one of the most ambitious information technology programs in the country with nearly one personal computer for every two students, although so far they are more likely to run interactive CD Rom than surf the Internet. It also stays open two evenings a week to give students from poor families, which make up nearly half the enrollment, a chance to keep pace with students who have computers at home.

"I've been waiting for most of 30 years to see this happen," Mr. Donnelly said. The government program is not with-

out controversy, however. Some educators question the high priority given to information technology at a time when many schools need basic repairs and 1.5 million primary schoolchildren are in classes of 31 or more students. "The cost of IT equipment vies against other equipment in an inadequate school budget," said Olive Forsythe, a spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers.

the program will divert attention from the instruction of basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

"Information technology is not the answer to education in the sense of a particular understanding of the basic skills," Princess Anne told a recent conference of heads of independent schools. "Without the basic skills, we cannot use the information that is available."

Proponents insist those fears are overblown as long as computers are used properly and teachers can learn to become facilitators in their pupils' pursuit of knowledge.

At Worth, where computers are emphasized as a research tool, library use and book use have actually increased since the school installed 120 computers with a £500,000 private donation four years ago, Father Jamison said. "Students become more self-sufficient researchers." They also can learn at their own pace, a potential boon for the gifted and the learning disabled alike, he added.

Perhaps surprisingly, security is not a

big issue for many educators. Father Jamison noted that pornography has been an issue virtually since the invention of the printing press. Like most schools, Worth places its computers mainly in public areas like libraries, where students tend to work in groups under supervision rather than in isolation.

Still, Mr. Donnelly said there was a need for some type of public service body to verify the quality and accuracy of education-oriented information on the Internet, just as textbooks are approved today. So far, that job is left up to service providers. Research Machines, for example, provides its Internet for Learning software to about 4,000 schools, which offers links to educational web sites categorized by subject and age and filters out unsuitable material.

TONI BUERKLE is the International Herald Tribune's London correspondent.

EU's Blueprint For Knowledge

Continued from Page 9

began in the mid-1980s, called Information for All, which failed because of inadequate preparation. Most of the computers ended up in closets and less than 20 percent of teachers used the material in their lessons, he said.

He added that the task now is not only to introduce computers and software into schools but to change thinking and teaching methods profoundly in order to bring about what he called "a synthesis between the culture of the written world and the culture of images."

The European Commission's campaign to promote information technology is spearheaded by a former French prime minister, Edith Cresson, who is responsible for research, education and technology. Along with Martin Bangemann, the commissioner in charge of industrial affairs, information and tele-

communications, she has established a task force on multimedia educational software that is intended to create high-quality online educational services by 2000. The commission said the quality of existing educational software is not high enough.

The commission also is promoting plans to have all universities connected to broadband communications networks within a couple of years to enable them to play a leading role in the use and development of educational multimedia.

In a joint statement, Mrs. Cresson and Mr. Bangemann warned that the task of wiring up schools throughout the EU is vitally necessary to keep the EU competitive in the global economy. "Time is running out," they said. "Only a small proportion of schools in the European Union are suitably equipped. Too few teachers have received adequate training in the use of new tools for educational purposes, or are

even sufficiently aware of their teaching potential.

"Finally, only a small number of educational multimedia software programs are available in the European market.

The situation is in marked contrast with other regions of the world, most notably the United States, where a major effort to equip schools with multimedia has been under way for several years."

BARRY JAMES is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

Blair Aims to Rescue Worst-Performing Schools

By Veronica Forwood

ONDON — It couldn't have been more timely. Just as Britain sets itself the task of trying to rescue some of its poorest schools from persistent failure, word has come that the malaise within the education system appears to reach to the very top — to Oxford University itself.

Undergraduates at the university taking first-year English language and literature exams in 1995 misspelled 140 commonly used words, with efforts such as "abolition" for abolition, "capitalist" for capitalist, and "disolution" for disillusioned.

The revelation that even the country's finest are failing to meet what were once considered norms of literacy shows the scale of the challenge that Prime Minister Tony Blair faces as he tries to fulfill his election pledge to equip Britain with a "world-class education service."

The Schools Standards and Framework Bill now being discussed in Parliament will, if it becomes law, introduce radical plans to address Bri-

tain's diminished academic record in relation to other developed economies.

An international report in 1995 showed English pupils performed below the majority of advanced industrialized countries at primary and early secondary school level, while another study found that only half of all 11-year-olds were reaching the required level in English and mathematics.

Mr. Blair wants to tackle the problem of worst-performing schools in deprived areas by creating Education Action Zones. These would be run by a partnership of businesses, local education authorities and parents.

Schools in the zones could focus on particular parts of the national curriculum according to their needs, such as basic literacy and numeracy teaching. They could also give funding priority to set up specialist schools, nurseries and family literacy projects.

The education bill also includes measures allowing for direct ministerial intervention in failing schools. The government would have power to close and reopen schools under "fresh-start" programs.

Despite its approval for many parts of the club, the largest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, has voiced alarm at giving business a direct role in running schools and opposes "plans to allow parts of the education service to be run at a profit."

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said recently, "Every penny available should be used to improve provision for the children in our schools, not to line the pockets of shareholders or owners of private companies."

One of the education bill's features is the establishment of "after-school homework clubs" to help pupils with educational problems. The

classes of the "after-school homework clubs" will be held in the grounds of professional soccer clubs. It is hoped that the chance to meet soccer star will encourage children to attend.

After-school clubs are to start soon at Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Leeds United. Other top clubs are expected to follow.

For example, at Sheffield Wednesday FC, in Yorkshire, northern England, a program starts this month under which children aged 9-13 will be invited to the club.

Eighteen schools will be involved in the first year, five of them secondary schools. Children will be selected by their schools; it is hoped that those selected will view it as an opportunity, not as a badge of failure.

The study centers will con-

centrate on literacy, numeracy and information technology skills.

The government will put £2 million (\$3.2 million) into the £6 million initiative, called "Playing for Success," with local education authorities, businesses and the clubs paying the rest.

All the children selected will be "underachieving" only, and not pupils who are disaffected or truanting, according to Sue Beeley, a study center manager.

VERONICA FORWOOD is a freelance journalist based in London.

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

'Black' Colleges Are Luring Back Their Own From the Ivy Leagues

By Edward B. Fiske

WASHINGTON — Ivy League and other prestigious universities in the United States compete vigorously to recruit the best and the brightest of each year's crop of African-American high school graduates. Last June Malaka Jones was one of them.

A top student at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, Ms. Jones was admitted to Harvard College and Trinity University, a selective liberal arts college in Connecticut. Instead of accepting an offer that most high school students can only dream about, however, she enrolled in Spelman College, a black women's liberal arts institution in Atlanta.

"It's not that I didn't like Harvard," she explained. "It's just that I loved Spelman and felt more comfortable there."

Ms. Jones is one of a growing number of academically superior African-American students in a position to attend virtually any institution of higher education in the country but who are opting for the top tier of what are known as

"historically black colleges and universities."

In addition to Spelman, these include private institutions such as Morehouse College in Atlanta, Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Hampton College in Hampton, Virginia. Another is Florida A&M, a public institution, in Tallahassee.

Students and college officials cite several reasons for the trend. The academic quality of the top black institutions has increased dramatically over the last decade, and their admissions offices have become more aggressive and sophisticated in recruiting top African-American candidates.

Equally important, however, are social and personal considerations. Many blacks at predominantly white institutions find themselves living outside the mainstream of campus activities, with social options restricted to a relatively small group of fellow African Americans.

"Many blacks find white colleges to be segregated, unreceptive and damaging to their self-confidence," said Suzanne Malveaux, a 1989 Harvard graduate who did her senior thesis on African-American students who had transferred to Howard from white institutions.

Continued from Page 9

including takeover by the state.

Some of the most significant work on standards has been done by professional organizations. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics published a set of national standards for their field, and their counterparts in other subjects have followed suit.

American students appear

to be responding in their own way. The number of students taking advanced subjects has soared in recent years. While in 1982 only 14 percent of students took what "A Nation at Risk" defined as a basic curriculum, that figure is now more than 50 percent.

Efforts to raise the level of student achievement are by no means restricted to the United States. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recently carried out case studies

of educational innovations in 13 countries in an effort to inform policymakers about what constitutes effective school reform.

Despite all the talk about standards, however, it is far from clear that achievement is rising as fast as school reformers would like. Results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), released last year, showed that U.S. fourth graders scored well above average in both subjects but that

1960s posed a threat to the best black institutions because it gave top African-American students more academic options. Spelman, which was known as "the black Vassar," began losing students to the real Vassar College.

The tide began to turn again in the

black colleges gained new visibility and increased financial resources. Bill Cosby, the comedian, donated \$20 million to Spelman and featured the college on his television program. Oprah Winfrey, the talk show host, made major financial contributions to Spelman and Morehouse.

The top black institutions invested heavily in new faculty and programs. Spelman, for example, which was always known for its strength in the arts and the humanities, now turns out large numbers of professional scientists.

Students who opt for black rather than prestigious white colleges acknowledge that there are tradeoffs. "We have a pretty good library, but it's still not like Harvard's," said Ms. Jones of Spelman. "But the teaching is good, and the faculty members really care about their students."

Some black students try to get the best of both worlds by enrolling in a prestigious white institution but spending some time at a black institution as well. Jay Stewart, who graduated from Harvard, attended Howard for one semester because "I had gone to mostly white schools all of my life and wanted to know more about my personal background."

Carter Stewart, his brother, graduated from Stanford University but spent a semester at Morehouse. "It was an incredible experience to be surrounded by other black people," he said. "Blacks build defenses in predominantly white environments, and you lose them at a place like Morehouse. You don't have to be on guard all the time."



On campus at Spelman. Students say they feel part of a community.

The Quest for National Standards Sparks a Heated Debate in U.S.

Continued from Page 9

standards up with vigorous accountability measures. In Kentucky, for example, teachers in schools where students exceed specific achievement goals receive financial rewards, but schools in which students do poorly on state tests face sanctions,

including takeover by the state.

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Despite all the talk about standards, however, it is far from clear that achievement is rising as fast as school reformers would like. Results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), released last year, showed that U.S. fourth graders scored well above average in both subjects but that

8th graders were below average in math and only slightly above average in science.

It seems that the longer American students are in school, the worse they do in relation to students in other countries," said an administration official, who would not speak for the record.

TIMSS data on 12th graders is scheduled to be released later this month, and most researchers expect it to confirm the pattern of decline.

On the surface, academic

standards would seem to be

an apple pie issue. Who can be opposed to U.S. students doing better in school? But many political and educational leaders believe that the setting of standards, especially at the national level, is the wrong way to go about it.

The administration argues

that such tests will give the nation a barometer for determining how well schools are doing and provide valuable information on which students need additional assistance.

Critics, however, say

that everyone knows which

students are doing poorly and that national tests constitute

the first step toward a national

curriculum. Civil rights

groups say that tests will stigmatize blacks and members

of other minority groups.

whose scores are likely to be relatively low.

Other challenges to the standards movement come from those who believe that the key to better schools lies in breaking up the monopoly of public school systems and creating new organizational structures.

Thirty states have passed laws permitting local groups to establish "charter schools" that would receive public funds but operate with considerable autonomy in matters such as curriculum, hiring and scheduling.

There are now more than 800 charter schools in the country, with sponsorship running across the socio-economic and political spectrums.

Founders of teachers showing that, although 49 states are using higher academic standards to drive reform, only 13 of them are requiring local districts to provide academic intervention for students who fail to meet the standards.

John Jennings, director of the Center on Education Policy in Washington, D.C., cited a study by the American Federation of Teachers showing

that, although 49 states are using higher academic standards to drive reform, only 13 of them are requiring local districts to provide academic intervention for students who fail to meet the standards.

The country needs to raise the academic standards in its schools," he said. "The good news is that we are well on our way to doing that. The bad news is that we don't yet realize that it will be a long and arduous task."

EDWARD B. FISKE is a former education editor of The New York Times.

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CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Heavy New Supply of Bonds This Week Is Expected to Limit Price Gains

Compiled by Our Staff Foreign Despatchers

CHICAGO—The U.S. Treasury bond market ended last week on a positive note, but a heavy offering of supply, U.S. economic data and politics all will weigh into this week's price mix, analysts said.

The highlight last week was the January nonfarm payroll report, issued Friday, which featured larger-than-expected

percent, up from 5.81 percent a week earlier, despite falling Friday.

The Treasury will offer \$13 billion in three-year notes Tuesday, \$12 billion in 10-year notes Wednesday and \$10 billion in 29-year bonds Thursday — an expansion in supply that is expected to keep a lid on market gains, analysts said.

But the combination of maturing Treasury issues and coming coupon payments will give some investors a surplus of cash, which should help underpin demand for the new issues, said John Cawcan of Stone & McCarthy.

Kathleen Camilli, director of economic research at Tucker Anthony, said retail sales for January, due to be released Thursday, and the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank survey for January, due Tuesday, probably would indicate a weakening economy.

"This creates a positive environment

for Treasury refunding but as usual leaves dealers having to buy paper at reasonably expensive levels," she said.

The retail sales report will be key, Mr. Dimick said, "but first will come jockeying for positions" ahead of the auctions.

"Retail" sales are going to be held down because of weak auto sales during the month," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors. But he pointed out that chain-store sales for January, reported last week, were strong.

Political developments, both in Asia and in the White House, will continue to have an impact on the volatility of the market, Mr. Chan added.

Many of the top financial advisory firms have been urging investors to add to their corporate securities holdings.

With a measure of stability returning

to Asian markets and economies — and with corporate profits still on track to rise this year, if not as much as in 1997 — such firms as Lehman Brothers Inc., Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. and Goldman, Sachs & Co. have been urging clients to increase their corporate bond holdings as a percentage of fixed-income investments.

Corporate bonds are offering more value than most other bonds because their prices have been reduced by a raft of new bonds and concern that Asia's problems would crimp corporate profits. By contrast, Treasury bonds have rallied so much in recent months that the 30-year bonds started this month with yields near a record low, which strategists said was making corporate bonds a better buy.

"The world of credit looks handsomely moving in February," said Jack Malvey, chief bond strategist at Lehman

Brothers. High-yield bonds, the riskiest of corporate securities, have been among the best investment performers so far this year.

A basket of below-investment-grade, or junk, securities tracked by Merrill Lynch & Co. returned 1.5 percent through the end of last week, including price gains and interest. If that return continued unchanged, the bonds would post growth of more than 19 percent for the year.

Investment-grade corporate bonds have not risen as much because higher-rated borrowers rushed to sell about \$50 billion of bonds as rates fell, flooding the market with debt and causing differences in yield, or spreads, between these securities and Treasury bonds to widen. With sales subsidizing a bit, these securities may be poised to recover.

"The relatively wide spreads we see

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

increase of 358,000 jobs, Patrick Dimick of UBS Securities in New York said.

A closer look at the data, he said, showed that special factors such as construction employment may have overstated the payroll gain, making the report less inflationary and thus less scary to the bond market than it at first seemed.

The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond finished the week at 5.92.

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"The relatively wide spreads we see

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Feb. 6. Prices supplied by Telefun.

Rnk Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

Austrian Schilling

228 Austria 6% 07/15/27 106.4000 5.8700

British Pound

79 Ardington 8.0904/01/22/23 98.0000 8.2600

159 Ardington F zero 01/01/23 16 7.6200

169 Fin Resid Hous 11.26/93/20/50 146.7785 7.58

179 Plymouth Cent 8% 02/01/98 104.1000 7.50

182 Royal Valley 2% 01/01/99 99.7500 6.0000

194 EIB 6 11/24/98 98.0583 6.1200

237 (ADBK) 6.4000/06/25/00 97.6519 6.5500

247 Ardington zero 12/07/22 18% 7.0200

Canadian Dollar

192 Canada TBII zero 07/09/98 97.9360 5.0000

Danish Krone

5 Denmark 8/03/1998 101.2973 6.4940

5 Denmark 7/11/2000 111.1000 6.2000

26 Denmark 7/11/2000 111.1000 6.1500

27 Denmark 9/11/2000 111.1000 6.0800

55 Denmark 11/15/00 103.7023 5.7900

70 Denmark 9/11/1998 103.6500 6.8800

72 Denmark 6/03/1998 104.1223 7.6100

73 Denmark 6/03/1998 104.1223 7.5500

78 Denmark 12/15/00 110.1500 6.3500

84 Denmark 12/10/99 103.0500 5.8200

96 Denmark 6/02/1999 101.3700 5.8900

97 Denmark 7/08/2000 99.9000 7.6100

126 Nykredit 7/01/2000 99.8520 6.7000

147 Nykredit 4/01/2000 96.7000 6.1900

187 Denmark 4/02/1998 99.5300 4.0700

228 Nykredit 7/02/2000 100.0000 6.1200

229 Nykredit 7/02/2000 100.0000 6.1200

233 Denmark 5/05/1998 98.5700 5.0500

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4 Germany 12/17/99 100.4500 4.2200

6 Germany 6/01/04/98 101.3697 5.1800

9 Germany 6/01/04/98 101.3697 5.1800

10 Germany 6/01/04/98 111.7881 5.8100

11 Germany 8/01/2000 112.7357 5.7000

12 Germany 8/02/2000 123.6467 5.7000

14 Treuheld 7/01/2000 110.7878 6.4300

15 Germany 5/02/12/00 111.3200 6.1600

16 Germany 5/04/1998 98.7216 5.7000

17 Germany 7/01/2000 103.3498 6.4500

18 Germany 7/01/2000 103.3498 6.4500

19 Germany 6/01/04/98 101.5424 5.7000

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35 Germany 6/07/04/97 109.1547 6.0700

36 Treuheld 7/01/2000 101.3871 6.8500

37 Treuheld 7/01/2000 101.3871 6.8500

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46 Treuheld 7/01/2000 101.3871 6.8500

47 Treuheld 7/01/2000 101.3871 6.8500

48 Germany 6/04/22/97 109.4045 6.1600

49 Germany 6/11/2000 102.6772 4.9700

50 Treuheld 6/04/23/00 108.8853 5.9700

51 Germany 6/02/16/00 106.9000 5.6300

ice Gains

Corporate market are unjustified. Chandra of Goldman said. Best bargains can be found among the lowest tier of investment-grade bonds, she said, or bonds carrying the range of BBB. These have suffered the most this year, she said, with spreads over their bonds widening as much as 100 basis points, or 0.08 of a percentage point. Not all investors are being investment firms' recommendations. Seitz of Advisors Capital Management said his company bought bonds Friday and had more fixed-income holdings in U.S. government debt. Advisors Capital is one of the few Asian firms that have pulled investors into the government bond market.

—Market News Bloomberg

in Demand

tors Seek Alternatives

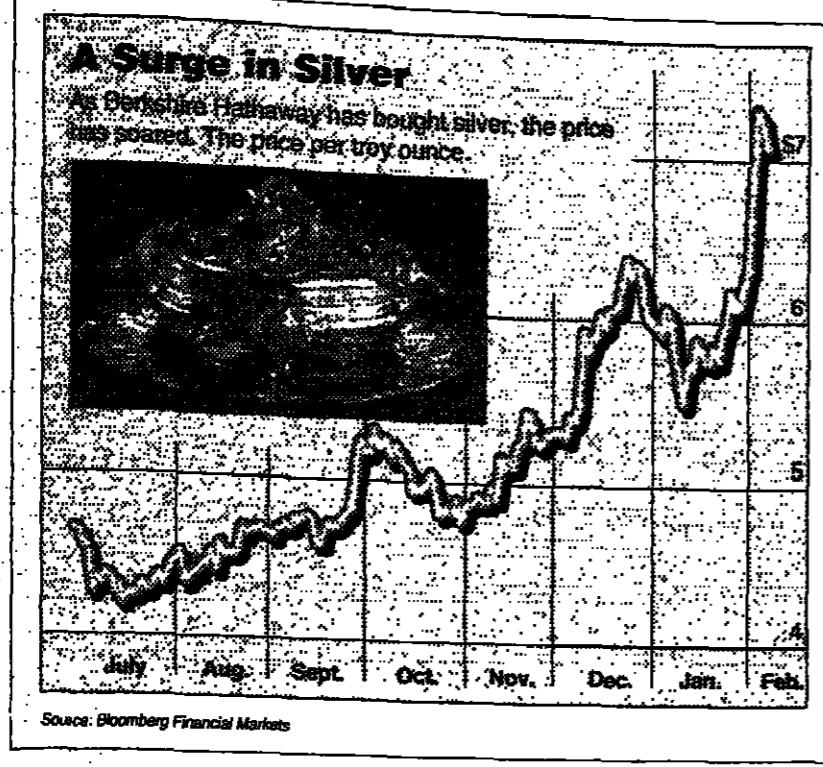
Small investment-grade increased its annualized yield to 8.40 percent, up from 8.10 percent a year ago. The yield on a coupon of 7 percent and ended the week trading at 8.21 basis points.

The company's eight-year issue is 8.25 billion French francs, increasing from the initial target of 7 billion francs. It said it had a coupon of 6.5 percent yield of 7.5 basis points over the government paper and ended the week trading at 8.21 basis points.

Manager said the cost of the deal was 1.5 percent above the French United States and that of the French issue was 1.5 percent above the German and Switzerland.

On the back of the success, Argus' D'Amato said, "I think a lot of people have a misconception that there are no new issues of bonds in the last three years. There are, but they are not being sold by the same companies that were sold by the same companies in the last three years. The companies that are still in business are the ones that are still in business."

Is Buffett's Splurge on Silver a Sign That Gold Will Start to Glitter Again?



By Mickey Meece
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Precious metals are suddenly looking more precious. With the news last week that Warren Buffett was quietly amassing a hoard of silver, driving its price to the highest level in nine years, investors began to see a treasure trove, rather than a junk heap, in long-neglected precious metals and the mutual funds that invest in them.

In fact, gold was already rallying a bit, climbing above \$300 an ounce recently after trading at \$278.15 on Jan. 12, although it ended the week just under \$300. Gold stocks also rose after the news of the activity by Mr. Buffett, one of America's most widely followed investors.

After last year, when the average gold fund tumbled 43 percent according to Morningstar Inc., the Chicago-based fund-tracking company, it almost seemed that these funds had nowhere to go but up.

No fund in the sector — not even the once high-flying Midas — escaped the carnage. All the gold funds did poorly, from fund families such as Lexington Strategic Investments, U.S. Global In-

vestors, USAA and Morgan Stanley. Now, with Mr. Buffett accumulating silver — which, like gold, is a traditional inflation hedge — it is perhaps less surprising that some funds, such as Oppenheimer Gold and Special Minerals, have been raising their gold holdings.

"Given the relatively steep decline in gold stocks last year, we believe that the risk-reward is now better for gold stocks

INVESTING

than other minerals," Oppenheimer said in its January shareholder report. The company has changed its allocation to 75 percent gold and 25 percent other minerals, from 65 percent gold and 35 percent others.

"The gold holdings will be relatively stable because of our emphasis on senior producers with low cash costs and highly liquid shares," the report said.

Even more aggressively, Sogen Gold has nearly 98 percent of its holdings in gold stocks, seemingly unfazed by a slide in net assets to \$31.4 million at the end of 1997, from \$55.8 million a year earlier. In such a terrible year, it was the best performer among strictly gold

funds, falling 30 percent.

The fund's manager, Jean-Marie Eveillard, said, "Our attitude has been the same one we took four years ago," namely that the downside risk was modest because "the price had already declined considerably from its peak, so it's a long-depressed asset."

An investment of \$10,000 made when Sogen Gold opened in September 1993 would have been worth \$8,124 at the end of last year, but the value of the same investment in a typical precious-metals fund would have fallen to \$6,422, according to Morningstar.

Equally stubborn in its strategy is Van Eck Associates, which has maintained a 90 percent exposure to gold in its two gold funds. Last year, Van Eck International Investors Gold A was down 36 percent, while Van Eck Gold/Resources A dropped 39.3 percent.

Harry Bingham, a manager of institutional gold portfolios at Van Eck, pointed out that gold typically ran contrary to the market, especially during major moves or changes. "There's been a bull market for the last 15 years, and gold has been in a bear market with some great rallies in between," he said.

Mr. Eveillard agreed that "everything is cyclical — bear markets and bull markets, so this one's not going to last." He also said that from a commodity point of view, there lately had been an excess of demand over supply of 500 to 1,000 tons a year, as demand for jewelry has exceeded production from mines.

Still, Mr. Eveillard said, "obviously, as long as the feeling prevails that everything is right with the world, the opportunity for gold prices to move up is modest." He added that he was prepared to ask shareholders to vote on abandoning the sector entirely at the end of the year if prices did not move up.

Across the fund industry, however, many investors were already abandoning the sector last year. Assets of gold and natural-resources funds totaled \$4.98 billion at year-end, according to AMG Data Services, a fund-tracking firm based in Arcata, California, down 37 percent from the beginning of the year.

"The only sector that has had a larger percentage decline in asset base is the Asian emerging market," Robert Adler, president of the firm.

Analysts cited two reasons for gold's slide last year: the near absence of inflation and the threat of central bank sales of gold reserves, which would overwhelm the market and cause prices to fall further.

Now, the pendulum could swing. "There should be strong support for the price of gold," said Mark Wright, a senior analyst at Morningstar. "At current levels, gold is selling cheaper than it costs to mine it. At some point, if gold stays at this level, companies will have to stop mining, and the prices will go up."

Doug Cohen, an analyst with Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co., said: "With gold rallying a bit, the panic selling from last year has subsided. Mutual fund redemptions seem to have bottomed out. Anyone looking to get into gold hasn't missed the opportunity yet."

Most people are very cautious. On the whole, there's probably more upside reward than downside risk in the gold price at \$300 per ounce."

Few analysts would advise investors to join a gold rush. As Mr. Eveillard said, "it's a very opaque market with many participants."

Still, many favor modest holdings, particularly for investors looking for insurance against inflation, market swings or political instability.

Mr. Wright of Morningstar, like many other advisers, recommends keeping a small proportion of a portfolio, from 2 percent to 5 percent, in gold.

"The bottom line is again diversification," Mr. Wright said. Even a 2 percent stake in precious-metal stocks, he said, should "reduce the volatility of one's entire portfolio enough to compensate" should the overall market go down.

Diversification's Downside: 'Concentrated' Funds Gain

By Kathleen Day
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Diversification is a mantra in the investment community, but lately some mutual-fund investors are buying into the idea that smaller is better. They are turning to funds that concentrate their holdings in only 20 to 30 stocks.

The strategy behind these concentrated funds — also known as focused, selector or "best idea" funds — is straightforward: Investors wanting to outperform the market should let smart stock-pickers focus on their best investment ideas rather than on scores of companies they don't have time to know well.

"How many good ideas can a portfolio manager have, realistically?" said John Nygren, president of the American Association of Individual Investors, a nonprofit educational group. "Probably about 20 to 25."

Hold more stocks than that, said Bill Nygren, portfolio manager of the Oakmark Select fund, "and you're diluting your favorite ideas."

"You need some diversification to hedge your bets," Mr. Nygren said. "But if you want to give money to people who have been successful stock-pickers, I believe it makes sense to allow that person to concentrate in the stocks they feel most strongly about."

The strategy: Investors wanting to outperform the market should let smart stock-pickers focus on their best ideas.

Concentration funds are not a new idea, mutual-fund specialists said.

"It's taking an idea that's always been out there and beefing it up as a marketing tool," said Josh Charlson, analyst for Morningstar.net, an Internet publication for mutual-fund investors. He estimated that in the past three to five years, 15 to 20 funds were created that specifically advertise the concentration strategy to investors.

William Dougherty, president of Canopie Bloch Care, a retirement plan and pension consulting firm, said he defined a concentration fund as one that

experts say. But the more stocks in a portfolio, the closer a money manager will come to matching the market as a whole — and to losing the chance to outperform it.

"The more samples you have from the universe, the more you become the universe," said Douglas Eby, co-manager of the Robert Torray of the Torray Fund, which manages \$770 million and holds positions in 35 stocks. The Torray fund, which has a five-star rating from Morningstar, has held 35 to 50 stocks since its founding in 1990. Last year it had a return of 37.12 percent.

Torray's managers have 48 percent of the fund's assets in 10 stocks, including Student Loan Marketing Association, AT&T Corp., Hughes Electronics Corp., Electronic Data Systems Corp., Loral

Corp. and J.P. Morgan & Co. About 25 percent of its holdings are in financial-services companies, and 22 percent are in nondurable consumer-oriented areas such as health care, Mr. Eby said.

Mr. Eby said focusing on a smaller range of stocks required the fund managers to know "a significant amount" about a company or a business. He said Torray looked for undervalued companies that had the potential to post yearly returns of 15 percent.

The strategy requires investors to have a long-term outlook — at least five years, but preferably 10 years or longer, he said. The fund has had an average return of 38.59 percent a year for the past three years.

Mr. Nygren at Oakmark Select has a similar philosophy: He looks for companies that he considers undervalued and likely to grow. He also likes managers who hold a large amount of stock or stock options in their companies.

Among the fund's holdings are Lockheed Martin Corp., Premark International Inc., Union Texas Petroleum Holdings Inc., Amgen Inc. and Polaroid Corp.

The fund's largest concentration of stock is in consumer goods and services, where it has put 13 percent of its assets. Its next largest concentration is in building materials and construction, at 10 percent.

Challenge to Euro Moves Ahead

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — A bid by German academics to derail the launch of the European single currency gained ground Sunday as the country's highest court looked set to admit a legal challenge and 155 professors called for the euro to be delayed.

One of four academics making a legal bid to stop Bonn from joining the single currency said Sunday the Federal Constitutional Court was preparing to admit the case, a move he said might hold up the euro's scheduled Jan. 1 debut.

Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, a law professor, said the court had decided to ask Germany's government, Parliament and other bodies to respond to issues raised by the case.

The academics' petition, submitted to the court last month, argues that monetary union would violate basic rights of Germans by forcing them to swap the Deutsche mark for a weaker currency. They say the court should prevent Bonn from joining European monetary union because some of the countries that are due to be included in it do not meet the economic targets set by the Maastricht treaty designed to ensure the euro's stability.

Separately, 155 German and Austrian economics professors, led by Renate Ohr of Hohenheim University and Manfred Neumann of Bonn, said they would publish a manifesto in newspapers Monday calling for a delay in the single currency on the grounds that economic conditions were not right.

IMF Chief Advises Fiscal Control

CARACAS (Bloomberg) — Finance ministers and central bankers from the developing world should adhere to sound fiscal principles and provide more open and accurate financial data, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, has said.

Mr. Camdessus warned delegates to the ministerial meeting of the Group of 24, a developing countries' organization, that Asia's problems were not unique to that region and could spread if policymakers did not learn.

"These are times of crisis," Mr. Camdessus said Saturday, "and it is our task to prevent this crisis from becoming a catastrophe that affects the whole world."

Separately, the IMF expects to sign a technical-assistance

program with Venezuela within weeks, continuing its support of the government's market-oriented policies begun two years ago. Venezuela's previous credit agreement — to borrow as much as \$1.4 billion — expired in July.

China Seeks to Speed Investment

BEIJING (AFP) — The State Planning Commission called Sunday for an acceleration in fixed-asset investment to offset a drop in exports caused by the Asian financial crisis.

"China needs to accelerate the growth of investment in 1998 to sustain its economic development," Zhang Hanya, director of the Investment Institute, told the China Daily.

"Fixed-asset investment must rise at least 12 percent in 1998 if China is to achieve an annual growth rate of 8 percent in its gross domestic product over the next three years," he said.

Chinese exports to the United States will slow this year, affected by the nosedive of Southeast Asian currencies that has sharpened the competitiveness of their exports," the China Daily quoted a report from the General Administration of Customs as saying.

It said Chinese imports from America would "increase considerably" because Washington had "somewhat eased" its export controls on nuclear technology.

According to Beijing's statistics, China's trade surplus with the United States in 1997 reached \$16.39 billion in a total two-way trade of \$48.99 billion.

William Dougherty, president of Canopie Bloch Care, a retirement plan and pension consulting firm, said he defined a concentration fund as one that

Diageo Rejects Selling Burger King

LONDON (Reuters) — Diageo PLC, the food and beverage giant formed by the merger of Guinness PLC and Grand Metropolitan PLC, denied a newspaper's report Sunday that it might put its Burger King fast-food chain up for sale this year.

A spokesman for the group dismissed the report in *The Sunday Times* as totally without foundation.

"We have no plans to sell Burger King," he said.

CROSSWORD



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GENERAL

THE INTERMARKET Continues on Page 20

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THE INTERMARKET

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

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WORLD ROUNDUP



Lindsay Davenport, who won the final Sunday in Tokyo.

Hingis Falls

TENNIS Lindsay Davenport of the United States, ranked No. 2 in the world, beat top-ranked Martina Hingis of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-3, Sunday in the Toray Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo.

Davenport served well and attacked on Hingis's second serve, breaking twice in the first set and again at the start of the second set.

Hingis, who recently won the Australian Open, then held her own serve for 1-3 and broke at love for 2-3 in the second set. But Davenport broke back for 4-2 and held her serve for 5-2.

Thomas Enqvist retained his Marseille Open title, overpowering top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-4, 6-1, in the final on Sunday.

Enqvist, 23, was never troubled by the former French Open champion from Russia.

• Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia won the Croatian indoor title for the third straight year when he beat Greg Rusedski, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5), Sunday in the final in Split.

"This is something unbelievable," the Croat said after the match. "There was a bomb ticking in my head for seven days from the pressure to win. So I'm extremely happy to have won this difficult match."

Ivanisevic also beat Rusedski in the final last year.

(AP)

Hornets' Mason Arrested

BASKETBALL Anthony Mason of the Charlotte Hornets was arrested in New York on Saturday on two counts of third-degree rape of two teenage girls. His lawyer, Frank Rothman insisted he was innocent.

"There will be scientific evidence that will vindicate Anthony," Rothman said. "He's a target for people like this."

Mason, 31, and a friend, William Duggins, 24, were each charged with two counts of statutory rape in the alleged attack on two girls, 14 and 15, on Friday night, the prosecutor's office said.

Mason and his friend met the sisters at a charity basketball game at York College in the Queens section of New York, the office said.

One New York tabloid reported in its Sunday editions that the alleged attack took place in a limousine after the game. The girls told an older sister about the alleged attack, the paper said.

(AP)

Germany Drops Boycott

SWIMMING The German Swimming Federation said Sunday that it had dropped its plan to boycott a World Cup swim meet in Beijing. The move had been intended as a protest against doping by Chinese swimmers.

"We have contractual obligations to appear," said Ruediger Tretow, the federation president. The World Cup event will take place in Beijing on Feb. 25 and 26.

(Reuters)

Ambrose Blasts England

CRICKET Curly Ambrose, the West Indies fast bowler, took five English wickets for 16 runs Sunday on the fourth day of the first test in Trinidad.

England, which started on 219 runs for four wickets in its second innings, was all out for 258. The West Indies, which needed 282 in its second innings to win, reached 104 for two by tea.

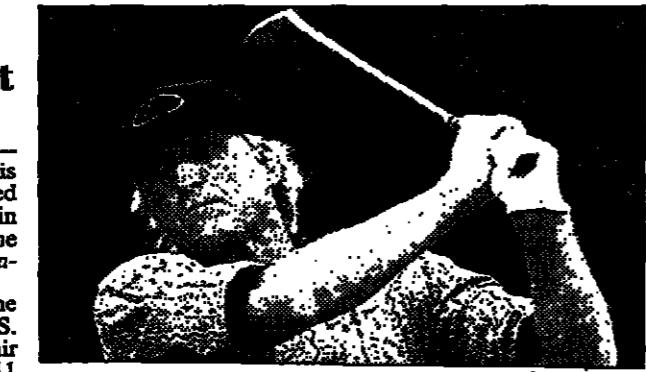
(Reuters)

Norman Wins His Own Event

GOLF The Associated Press SYDNEY, Australia — Greg Norman finally won his own event when he outlasted Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain by two strokes to win the \$680,000 Greg Norman International on Sunday.

Norman started the day one shot behind the 1994 U.S. Masters champion. The pair dueled through the first 11 holes, trading the lead until Norman went ahead for good with a birdie at the 367-meter, par-4 12th hole.

• Ernie Els of South Africa won his third South African Open Championship on Sun-



Greg Norman driving to victory Sunday.

day by shooting a final round of 69 for a 72-hole total of 273, beating fellow countryman David Frost by three strokes. Frost shot a 71.

The final day of the \$766,000 championship was a two-man competition.

Patrick Sjoland of Sweden was third, four strokes back.

What Color Is America's Cup? How About Green

By Barbara Lloyd
New York Times Service

NEWPORT, Rhode Island — When a \$250,000 entry fee, in the form of a letter of credit, came due on Jan. 31 for challengers to the America's Cup, one of the European yachting teams took the unnecessary step of hand-delivering a check for the full amount.

The money was delivered by a messenger for the yachting syndicate to a bank in Nassau, Bahamas. The team phoned the America's Cup challengers' lawyer, who had an office in Nassau, asking him to pick up its counter at the airport.

"We didn't do that," Dyer Jones, president of the America's Cup Challenge Association, said during an interview at his office here. "With the amount of money you have to pay lawyers these days, we figured a cab would be much cheaper."

A letter of credit from one of the other teams

came up short by \$16 — an amount that the association's bank had taken out as a processing fee. "We wrote a check for the \$16," Jones said wryly. "Come on, look at what they put up."

Such is the high-stakes world of America's Cup yacht racing. And it's higher than ever before in the trophy's 147-year history. The sheer magnitude comes from having a record 16 international yacht clubs pay up to challenge New Zealand for the America's Cup.

Syndicates from 10 countries, of which the United States is fielding six teams, will tap corporate cooperation worldwide. And with budgets expected from \$15 million to \$30 million each, it won't come cheaply.

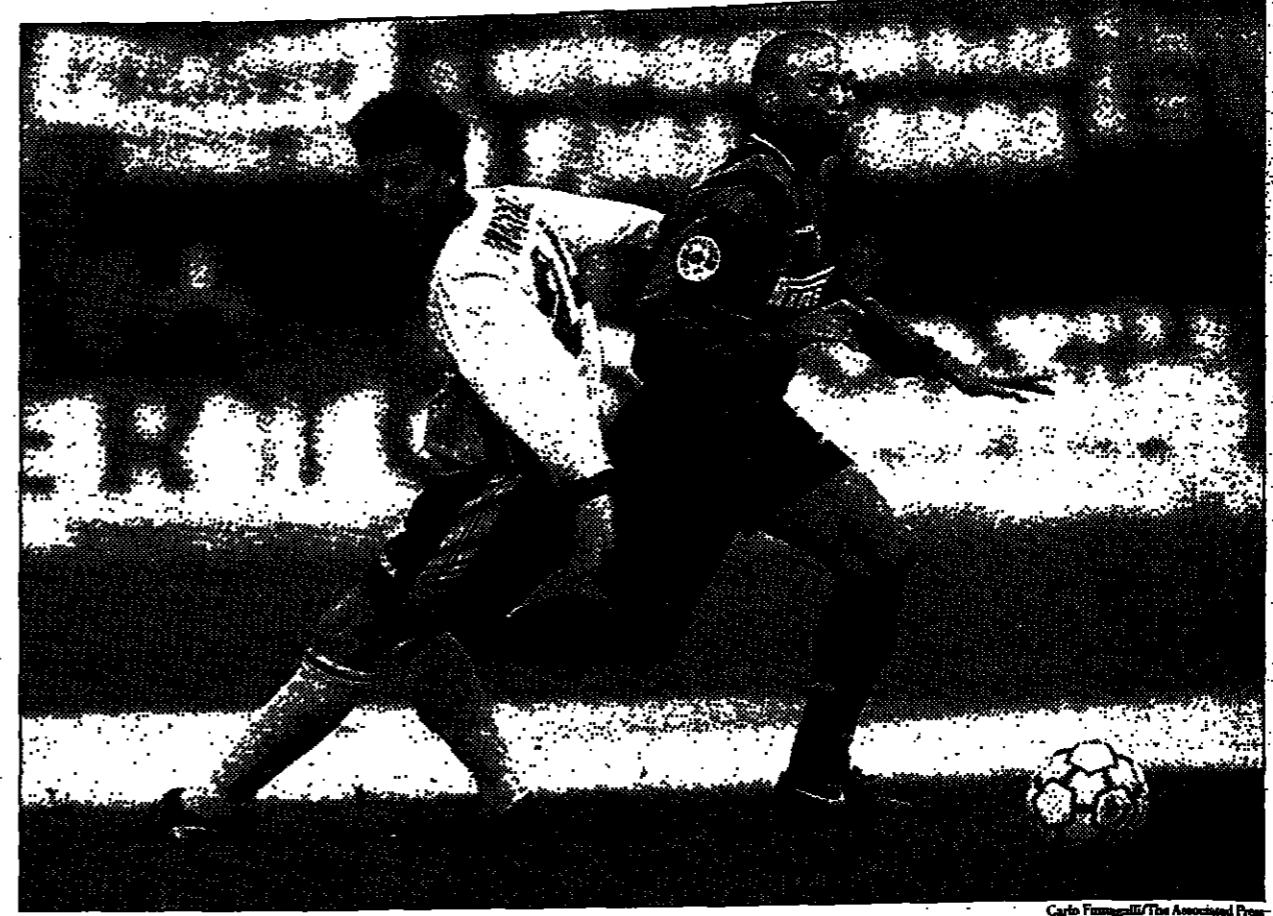
"I expected to see somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 to 12 challengers," Jones said about the 16 paying groups — of 18 that had showed initial interest. "A \$250,000 bond is a lot of money. In the grand scheme of things, you'd have to be

pretty confident about how you're going to fund your camp to risk that much."

It was a deep plunge for any of the groups, each of whom had paid \$100,000 to \$200,000 as a preliminary entry fee. If any team fails to show up at the start line for the challengers' trial races, scheduled to begin in late October 1999, the syndicate will forfeit its \$250,000. Those who compete won't have to make good on their letters of credit.

The next step for challengers is a meeting this week in Milan. Jones said he expected all 16 teams to show up with representatives. Many of the issues are procedural, but some are apt to be contentious.

Some challengers are already disillusioned, contending that the New York Yacht Club exerts too much control over them. Indeed, New Zealand handpicked the New York club to represent challengers when the Kiwis' Black Magic team won the America's Cup three years ago.



Carlo Fumagalli/The Associated Press

Inter Milan's Ronaldo, right, streaking past Bologna's defense Amedeo Mangone with the ball on Sunday.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

United Ties Bolton, As Challengers Fall

Arsenal Beats 2d-Place Chelsea; Blackburn and Liverpool Also Lose

Manchester United was held to a 1-1 tie at home by struggling Bolton but still increased its lead on the three teams behind it in the English Premier League. They all lost.

United trailed Saturday after a goal from Bolton's Bob Taylor in the 60th minute and seemed to be heading for its third consecutive league defeat until Andy Cole evened the score five minutes from the end of the game.

On Sunday, Stephen Hughes scored twice in the first half as Arsenal, which is fifth in the league, beat second-place Chelsea, its London rival, 2-0. Hughes, a 21-year-old midfielder scored on a 20-meter drive after four minutes and headed the second goal in from close

playing time.

Bologna protected that lead despite playing with 10 men for the last 17 minutes after the veteran defender Massimo Tarantino was expelled.

In Turin, Roma also finished with 10 men after defender Fabio Petrucci received a red card for a foul on Del Piero. SPAIN Barcelona, the Spanish league leader, survived late pressure to earn a 1-1 draw at Tenerife on Sunday. The Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo blasted his 14th goal of the season to put Barcelona ahead just before halftime.

But the second half was barely two minutes old when Tenerife's Slavisa Jokanovic scored.

Sporting Gijon ended the worst losing streak in the Spanish first-division's history Sunday by beating its local rival Racing Santander, 2-1, its first victory in 24 games.

On Saturday, Real Sociedad scored a late goal to draw, 1-1, with its Basque rival Athletic Bilbao.

Javi Gracia scored after Darko Kovacevic had knocked Athletic's goalkeeper, Imanol Erreagorri, to the ground. The 1-1 draw lifted Real into second place. Athletic remained fourth.

FRANCE Auxerre, Nantes and Rennes of the first division were all knocked out of the French Cup by teams from the lower divisions.

Rennes was upset by third-division

Istres, while Auxerre lost, 2-1, after the overtime with second-division Mulhouse.

Nantes fell, 1-0, to the second-division struggler Caen. Midfielder Rafael Guerrero scored with 14 minutes left in the game.

The first-division leader, Olympique

de Marseille, labored to 1-0 away victory over fourth-division Boulogne.

PARIS Saint-Germain, which has lost its last three league games, won 1-0 at Lorient, the second-division leader.

SCOTLAND

José Quinto scored in the final minute to give Hearts a 1-1 home tie Sunday against Celtic and left both clubs even with the Glasgow Rangers at the top of the premier division. Jackie McNamara scored in the 40th minute, but Celtic missed several chances to increase its lead.

Rangers tied at home Saturday

against Dunfermline.

Quinto, a tiny winger from Angola, came on as a substitute in the 64th minute and scored from eight yards after his first effort was blocked.

NETHERLANDS The Dutch league resumed after its winter break Sunday and Ajax Amsterdam continued its victory streak from last year, trouncing RKC Waalwijk, 5-1. Michael Laudrup scored

three goals for Ajax.

Alexander Zickler put Bayern ahead in the 16th minute and Michael Tarant added the second goal with a free kick just two minutes later.

Bayer Leverkusen moved into third with a 4-1 victory over Werder Bremen, but is nine points behind Bayern.

Borussia Dortmund, the reigning European champion beat VfB Stuttgart, 3-1.

South Africa-Angola Match Is Even All Around

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOBO DIOULASSO, Burkina Faso

— The dismissal of two players brought a lively end to an otherwise dour match Sunday as South Africa, the defending champion, tied Angola, 0-0, in its first match in Group C of the African Nations' Cup.

The Angolan defender Bodinha was ejected for a foul away from the ball, and John Moeti, a South African midfielder, was sent off for retaliation.

Both will be suspended for the next game of the tournament.

South Africa's striker Benedict McCarthy might have been ejected after

he lashed out at Aurelio following a tackle, but McCarthy feigned injury and a substitution was made before any action by the referee.

In the second game at Bobo Dioulasso, Joel Tiehi scored twice, and Lassina Diabate scored in the 83rd minute as Ivory Coast beat Namibia, 4-1.

On Saturday in Ougadougou, Cameroon beat its host, Burkina Faso, in the inaugural game of the competition, 1-0. Alphonse Tchami scored for Cameroon in the first half. Burkina Faso, which qualified as host, fought back after halftime but failed to score.

GOLD CUP Preki Radosavljevic's 24-yard blast in the 78th minute gave the United States a 2-1 victory over Costa Rica and a place in the semifinals of the Concacaf Gold Cup.

America needed to win the Group 3 match to advance to the semifinals in Los Angeles. Mexico also gained a final-four spot by beating Honduras, 2-0, on a pair of goals by Cuauhtemoc Blanco in the second game of a doubleheader in Oakland.

The Gold Cup is the championship of the soccer federations of North and Central America and the Caribbean. Brazil is competing as a guest.



French players, left, winning a lineout from England's Lawrence Dallaglio.

Pierre Verdy/Agence France

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Pierre Verdy/Agence France

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1998

No. 7 UConn Bottles Up Stanford to Win, 76-56

The Associated Press

Richard Hamilton scored 24 points as No. 7 Connecticut held visiting Stanford to win, 76-56.

It was No. 9 Stanford's lowest point total of the season and its third loss in four games.

The victory was the fifth straight for the Huskies (21-3) who led by 12 points

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

at halftime and by 25 before Stanford (19-3) scored the final five points of the game.

Connecticut, always tough defensively, held Stanford well under its average of 81.6 points per game.

Arthur Lee led the Cardinal with 17 points.

No. 4 Arizona 83, Washington State 61

In Tucson, Arizona, Michael Dickerson scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half as the Wildcats beat Washington State. Miles Simon added 19 points for Arizona, who extended its winning streak to 14 games and won its 26th straight in a Pac-10 series. Carlos Daniel had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Washington State.

No. 8 UCLA 84, Oregon State 75 Toby Bailey scored 21 points and Kris Johnson added 20 as UCLA made up for a poor shooting performance with strong rebounding to beat Oregon State in Corvallis, Oregon. Corey Benjamin scored 22 of his 34 points in the second half for Oregon State, but was forced to sit out the last 6:36 of the first half with foul trouble.

No. 10 Purdue 107, Ohio State 75 Brad Miller scored 22 points and Purdue hit a conference-record 16 3-pointers to hand Ohio State its worst loss ever at home. Chad Austin added 19 points and Jaron Cornell 17 for Purdue. Jon Sander son scored a 24 points for Ohio State.

No. 11 Princeton 76, Harvard 48 In Boston, Gabe Lewulis matched his career high with 24 points and Princeton shot 68 percent from the field to rout Harvard. The Tigers, who crushed Dartmouth 71-39 the previous night, won their 11th in a row and beat Harvard for the 15th straight time. Bill Ewing scored a career-high 12 points for Harvard, which played without Dan Clemente, its freshman star.

No. 12 New Mexico 77, Colorado State 62 Clayton Shields scored 25 points and New Mexico converted five straight Colorado State turnovers into 11 points in the second half to extend the Lobos' home winning streak to 40 games.

Tennessee 70, No. 13 South Carolina 65 Tony Harris, a freshman, scored 22 points and made a key steal in the waning seconds to lead host Tennessee to victory in Knoxville. The Vols won their fourth straight Southeastern Conference game, their longest streak in nine years. Brandon Wharton scored 19 points as the Volunteers broke South Carolina's seven-game winning

streak. B.J. McKie led the Gamecocks with 27 points.

No. 14 Arkansas 93, Vanderbilt 83 In Fayetteville, Arkansas, Nick Davis scored 24 points and Pat Bradley bounced back from missing his first six shots to score all 17 of his points in the final 9:11 as Arkansas beat tenacious Vanderbilt. Austin Bates scored 16 points to lead Vanderbilt.

St. John's 77, No. 15 West Virginia 69 In New York, Felipe Lopez and Lavor Postell each scored 17 points and St. John's closed the game with a 10-4 run to snap West Virginia's five-game winning streak. Greg Jones led the Mountaineers with 23 points.

No. 16 Michigan 75, Iowa 64 Antonio Smith scored 17 points and had 12 rebounds while reserve Morris Peterson added 14 points as Michigan State stayed atop the Big Ten standings with a home victory in East Lansing. Ricky Davis, a freshman, led Iowa with 18 points.

No. 17 Mississippi 75, Alabama 74 In Oxford, Mississippi, Jason Smith scored the game-winning dunk with 13 seconds left as Mississippi snapped a three-game losing streak. Demetrius Alexander scored Alabama's last 10 points before being called for an offensive foul with 24 seconds left. Ansu Sesay led Ole Miss with 19 points, his 44th straight double-digit scoring game, but was on the bench in the final 2:37 after fouling out. Brian Williams scored 27 points, including five 3-pointers, to lead Alabama.

Minnesota 86, No. 18 Michigan 78 Eric Harris scored 24 points and host Minnesota made 14 of 20 3-pointers in the upset. The Gophers shot 56 percent for the game. Sam Jacobson and Quincy Lewis each added 19 points for Minnesota, while Kevin Clark had 17, including four 3-pointers. Maceo Baston led Michigan with a career-high 27 points.

Seton Hall 85, No. 19 Syracuse 61 Seton Hall ended 16 years of futility, winning for the first time ever in Syracuse's Carrier Dome by holding the Orangemen to one field goal over the final 12 minutes of the first half. While Syracuse was cold, Seton Hall hit a season high 14 3-pointers on 24 attempts, led by Donnell Williams and Levell Sanders who each had five and finished with 23 points. Shaneen Holloway added a career-high 14 assists, along with 11 points. Seton Hall had lost all 16 games played in the Carrier Dome since its opening in 1981. Syracuse was led by Todd Burgan's 17 points.

No. 25 Maryland 68, Florida State 62 Rodney Elliott scored 10 of his 16 points in the second half, including two free throws with 48 seconds left, as Maryland recovered from an 11-point deficit to win in Tallahassee, Florida.

Laron Profit also scored 16 points for the Terrapins. Obinna Ekezie added 11 points and a game-high 9 rebounds for Maryland. Corey Louis led Florida State with 17 points and 8 rebounds.

Tennessee 70, No. 13 South Carolina 65 Tony Harris, a freshman, scored 22 points and made a key steal in the waning seconds to lead host Tennessee to victory in Knoxville. The Vols won their fourth straight Southeastern Conference game, their longest streak in nine years. Brandon Wharton scored 19 points as the Volunteers broke South Carolina's seven-game winning



The Rangers' Bob Corkum, right, catching up with the Coyotes' center, Craig Janney.

NBA All-Star Game Prelude Fizzles

Players Generate Little Razzle-Dazzle and \$1 Million Shot Misses Mark

By Chris Sheridan

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Basketball Association's annual gaudiness on the eve of the All-Star Game went over like a lead balloon Saturday night, playing to a sellout crowd so unimpressed that thousands — despite paying \$100 per ticket — left early.

"They should have had the slam-dunk contest," said the film director Spike Lee, an avid Knicks fan and a regular at Madison Square Garden.

Instead, the crowd sat silently through the debut of 2ball, a shooting skills contest won by Clyde Drexler of the Houston Rockets and Cynthia Cooper of the Houston Comets. 2ball was the event that replaced the dunk contest, which league officials felt had gone stale.

For All-Star Saturday they signed up several of the league's best-known stars to pair with players from the Women's National Basketball Association from the same city, but only the participants seemed to have an idea of what was going on.

The buzz did not build during the rookie game, either, which was won, 85-80, by the East as Zydrunas Ilgauskas of the Cleveland Cavaliers won the most valuable player award.

And the fans — or what remained of them — were lingering at the exit ramps as the 3-point shoot-out went down to the final round and Jeff Hornacek of the Utah Jazz defeated Hubert Davis of the Dallas Mavericks, 16-10.

Ilgauskas had four dunks during the rookie game and finished with 18 points. Tracy McGrady of Toronto, at 18 the youngest player in the league, made a spectacular windmill jam to start his string of three straight stuffs, and Bobby Jackson of Denver was the winner of Dunk of the Night for catching a hard pass flung by Rodrick Rhodes and getting airborne for a wild finish that may have been the highlight of the night.

"It put a little excitement in the game. Everybody wanted to see a little razzle-dazzle," Jackson said.

Saul Holman of New York, a fan who last month drew the winning ticket and the right to make a basket for \$1 million, appeared calm as he took the court.

The 40-year-old former guidance counselor, attempting a two-handed overhead shot, seemed to lose his balance at the point of release. His shot was short and to the left, making million-dollar shot contestants 0-for-4 in All-Star Saturday history.

As a consolation prize, Holman received a Pontiac Sunfire convertible, Sony stereo equipment and \$5,000 checks.

The 2ball competition seemed to confuse the crowd, which didn't know the rules and did not know how many points each team had scored until the public address announcer reported it long after each pair of competitors had finished.

Cooper, the MVP in the WNBA's inaugural season, and Drexler defeated Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz and Tammy Reiss of the Starzz, 73-61, in the final round.

Down by 2 Goals, Avalanche Recover To Beat Flyers, 3-2

The Associated Press

Eric Lacroix broke a third-period tie and the Colorado Avalanche took advantage of two disallowed goals to fight back from a two-goal deficit and beat the visiting Philadelphia Flyers, 3-2.

Sandis Ozolinsh and Stephane Yelle added goals for the Avalanche, who

gave the Kings 5, Mighty Ducks 2. Russ Courtnall scored twice, giving him six goals in his last five games, and Vladimir Typlakov had a power-play goal as Los Angeles won in Anaheim. Rob Blake also scored, Yanic Perreault added a goal into an empty net and Stephane Fiset made 31 saves for the Kings.

Maple Leafs 3, Panthers 2

In Toronto, Derek King scored on a third-period penalty shot, as Toronto beat Florida. Fredrik Modin, with his second goal of the game, scored the eventual game-winner just 86 seconds after King's go-ahead goal.

Lightning 4, Capitals 3

Stephanie Richter and Jason Wiemer each had a goal and two assists as Tampa Bay snapped a 16-game winless streak with victory in Washington. Two Olympians, Peter Bondra and Richard Zednik, scored the Capitals' goals.

Penguins 2, Senators 2

In Kanata, Ontario, Andreas Dackell scored at 15:46 of the third period to give Ottawa a tie with Pittsburgh.

Sabres 4, Canadiens 1

Dominic Hasek stopped 33 shots as Buffalo extended its unbeaten streak to nine games with a victory in Montreal.

Lightning 4, Oilers 2

In Phoenix, Derek Brodeur allowed a goal for the first time in his last three games, but turned aside 32 other shots as New Jersey beat New York. Brodeur had offensive help from Patrick Elias, Doug Bodger and Brian Rolston as the Devils extended their unbeaten streak to four games.

Stars 3, Blackhawks 1

In Dallas, Pat Verbeek scored twice over a span of 1:23 in the second period and Roman Turek continued his stellar goal-scoring with 23 saves as Dallas beat Chicago.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SWESTER DIVISION

NORTHWEST DIVISION

SCOREBOARD

PACIFIC DIVISION		W L T		Pct		OF GA		(P)		Shots on goal: F- 18-9-13 -40 T- 6-12-21 -30 2nd Period: F-Vanderbilt 12, W-Vanderbilt 12, T-Vanderbilt 12	
Colorado	29	13	6	56	37%	1	2	1	1	1	1
Los Angeles	20	9	6	51	41%	1	2	1	1	1	1
San Jose	21	8	6	50	40%	1	2	1	1	1	1
Edmonton	25	21	5	54	35%	1	2	1	1	1	1
Calgary	23	19	6	52	36%	1	2	1	1	1	1
Vancouver	14	31	15	51	38%	1	2	1	1	1	1

FRIDAY RESULTS

SATURDAY RESULTS

SUNDAY RESULTS

MONDAY RESULTS

TUESDAY RESULTS

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

THURSDAY RESULTS

FRIDAY RESULTS

SATURDAY RESULTS

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MONDAY RESULTS

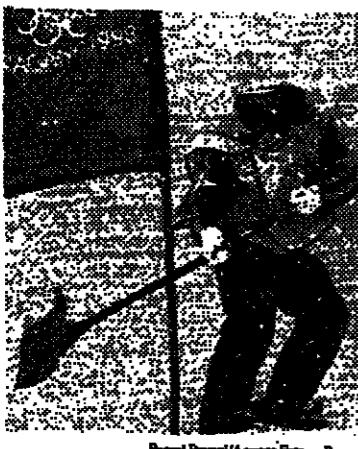
TUESDAY RESULTS

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

THURSDAY RESULTS

WINTER OLYMPICS

OLYMPIC BRIEFS



STORMY WEATHER — A worker shoveling snow from the men's downhill course during a blizzard on Sunday.

Olympic Mayors Suggest Cost Cuts

Cities that want to host future Olympic Games should rely more on existing sports facilities, rather than build new ones, even if that means holding some events in neighboring countries, the mayor of Nagano, Tatsuo Tsukada, said Sunday.

Tsukada said reducing construction would become increasingly important because of the swelling expense of hosting the games.

Tsukada attended a meeting with the mayors of five other cities that have served as Winter Games hosts. "The number of facilities and sports at the Olympics is growing," making the host's role more costly, he said.

Nagano invested \$693 million in the construction of five major facilities inside the city limits, about 20 percent above initial forecasts.

In a joint statement, the mayors said construction should be limited for future games because of cost and environmental reasons.

Andun Tron, the mayor of Lillehammer, Norway, the 1994 host, said that idea was a part of his city's joint bid with Helsinki for the 2006 games. Among the facilities that Lillehammer could offer, he said, were the bobsled and luge venue.

(AP)

Some Countries Started Without Their NHL Stars

ICE HOCKEY National Hockey League stars Peter Bondra and Olaf Kolzig will soon find out whether there is such a thing at the Olympics as "better late than never."

They are stuck back in the United States in regular league competition while their teams — Slovakia and Germany — play their first two games in Nagano. Since only two of eight teams will advance from the five-game preliminary round, even one loss can be critical.

Germany, which last week sent home two injured players, opened the tournament by beating Japan, 3-1, despite playing without Kolzig, an All-Star goalie, 6-foot-6 defenseman Uwe Krupp and San Jose forward Marco Strum.

"We are all supposed to have Dream Teams. Unfortunately, it's more of a nightmare situation," said George Kingston, the German coach. "Those three can be in the air, coming here for Game 3, and maybe we've already lost."

Slovakia played its first two games without Bondra, Robert Svehla, Zigmund Palffy, Miroslav Satan and three other NHL players. The Slovak team, also weakened by the flu, could only tie Saturday's opener against Austria, 2-2. It beat Italy 4-3 on Sunday. After the game Jan Sterbák, the Slovak coach, said he expected to add two NHL players for Tuesday's showdown with Kazakhstan. He said one would be Robert Svehla, a Florida Panthers defenseman. He did not name the other. "It depends on how they feel after the 20-hour flight," he said.

(NYT, AP)

Daehlie Chases Record

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Bjorn Daehlie will be chasing his sixth gold medal in the men's 30-kilometer cross-country race Monday. Victory would give him more gold medals than any other man in Winter Olympic history.

Daehlie won two golds in Lillehammer in his native Norway in 1994.

The 30K is the first of five races Daehlie has entered here. If he raises his total to seven golds, he will have more than any winter athlete, man or woman.

(AP)

Happy to Be Here

SNOWBOARDING Mariano Lopez was the last one down and recorded the slowest time in the slalom on Sunday. But he wasn't upset.

"I finished 21st, I'll take it," the Argentine said after the inaugural gold medal for snowboarding in men's giant slalom was won by Ross Rebagliati of Canada.

"I had been hoping I wouldn't embarrass myself," Lopez said.

Lopez, a 24-year-old from the Andes mountain resort of Bariloche, took up snowboarding eight years ago after seeing it on television. He had the worst times of any of the 21 finishers but at least he finished. He started ranked 33rd out of 34 in the field. The Greek snowboarder ranked 34th flamed out in the first run.

(AP)

Imported Aggression Aids Japan's Hockey Canadian 'Samurai' Bolster Home Team

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — The picture of Japanese delicacy, Noriko Ito looked out from beneath her perfect mascara, her doe eyes shining, and explained why she had come to see one of the ice hockey matches that opened the 1998 Olympic Winter Games.

"I'd like to see a fight," she explained sweetly. She glanced at the fray

abilities, and shoulders, in a hierarchical and respectful community like hockey — or just about any other in Japan — has naturally caused some strains.

"We didn't make any friends, let's say that," said a laughing Dusty Imoo, who is ethnically half-Japanese and grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. "A lot of the team members were our enemies. But then they came to realize that it's just a job and it's just on ice."

In the end, the Canadian-born players won a measure of grudging respect even from their rivals.

"They've got excellent skills and they're very tough," said Hideji Tsuchida, a Japanese hockey player who is not on the national team — but who could be if the Six Samurai had not taken key slots. "They allow us to experience a higher level of game, and it's good for ice hockey in Japan. It makes our game rougher and tougher."

Of course, Japan has its own contact sports — sumo and judo, for example — but those are rooted in discipline and self-control, and one of the essential principles of Japanese society is maintaining self-control.

Hockey, on the other hand, is raw and emotional and always skating on the edge of losing control. The Japanese fans, many of whom had never seen hockey before, loved it.

"In Japan, we don't have the chance to see things this physical, so it's a lot of fun," said Ikuko Shibusaki, a 28-year-old woman cheering in the standing-room section of the stands.

Next to her, Masako Tamura, an office worker at a computer company, waved her Japanese flag and said she was thrilled as she stood on tiptoe and tried to peer through a sea of heads.

"It's so fast, with just a bit of violence," she murmured, in a shocked tone. "It's so neat."

One of the problems the Japanese players face is simply size.

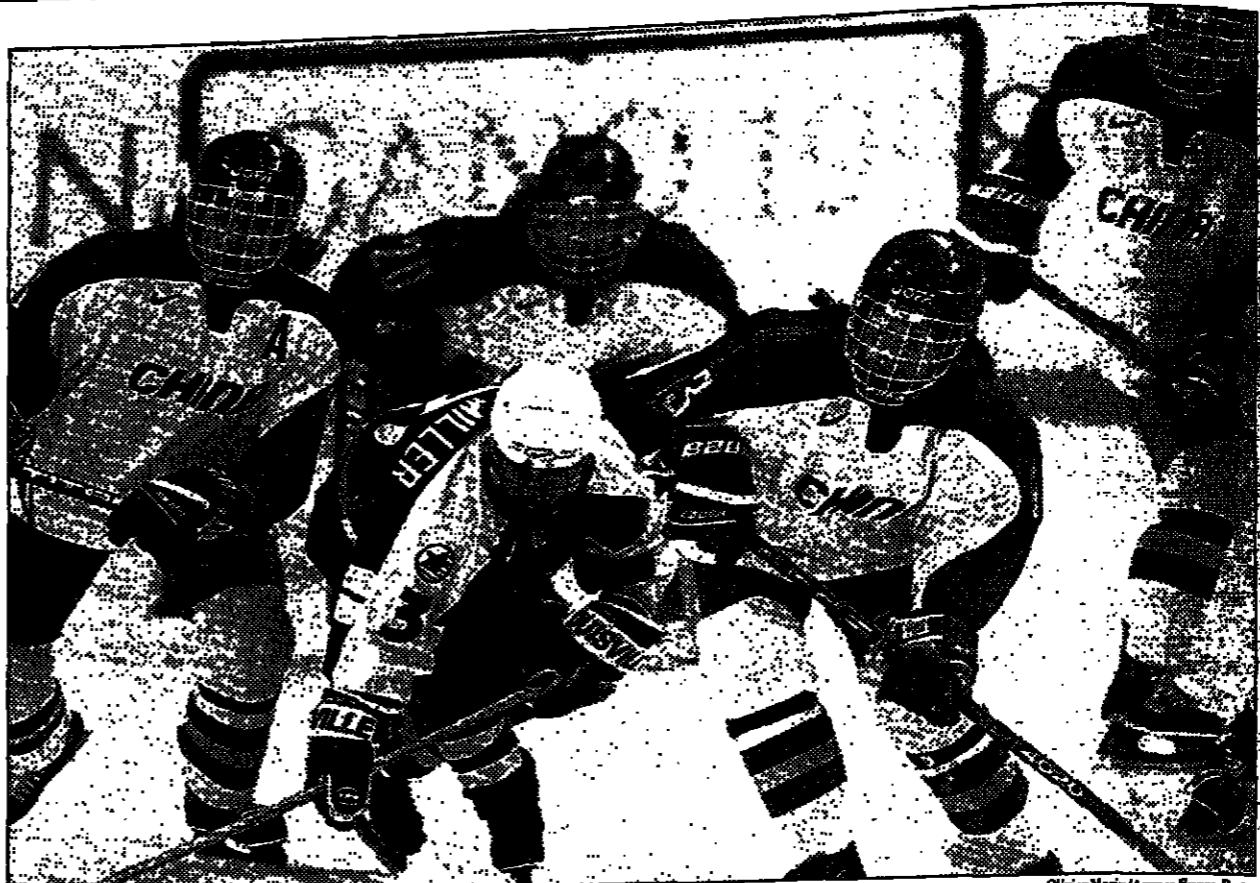
"Our players don't have any physical power," said Masaru Seino, a Japanese coach. "So we have to use our mental powers to outfox our opponents. We have to use teamwork. We have to use anything we have."

In Japan, hockey is popular really only in the northern island of Hokkaido. But Japanese players are hoping that the team's presence in the Olympics — even if it's only because Japan is the host country — will boost the exposure and popularity of the game.

"The Olympics is a big chance for us to develop this game," said Tsutomu Hanzawa, a former national coach who is now a hockey commentator for the Nikkan Sports newspaper. "These Canadians are great study material for us, and we can learn a lot from them. I wish we'd had them when I was coach."

The Canadian-born players are doing what they can to give the Japanese game what they describe as a bit more fire.

"Yeah," Imoo mused, "we try to stir things up a bit. The people watching it's very cool."



Elizabeth Brown, a U.S. forward, fighting off opponents during the U.S. victory over China on Sunday.

At Last, Women Can Toss the Sequins

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

NAGANO — Female skaters at the Olympics, the household names with faces and stories that dominate prime-time coverage of the Olympics. But those women have always been the ones wearing figure skates and sequins and stage make-up. On Sunday night, female athletes wearing shoulder pads and face masks and steel-toed hockey skates proved that there is more to graceful skating than triple toe-loops.

A new breed of women on ice introduced itself to the Olympics on Sunday as the United States scrapped and slapped its way a lopsided, 5-0 victory over China on the first day of women's hockey in Olympic history.

The American women's team, one of the top U.S. medal contenders, dominated the Chinese on a day that opened opportunities beyond figure skating for young girls everywhere who dream of Olympic gold.

"It's not just a man's game anymore," said Cammi Granato, the U.S. team captain, who scored twice. "We really feel like we're out here paving the way for all the women behind us."

Women's hockey is making its Olympic debut after decades of relative obscurity. While it has been largely overshadowed at these Games by Olympic men's hockey, which will have all the stars from the National Hockey League for the first time, the women's game was one of the most popular and watched additions to Olympic competition.

"I think this is doing a lot for young girls; they have a lot more dreams now," said Jenny Schmidgall, 18, a U.S. forward who had a goal and an assist

Sunday and will enter the University of Minnesota this autumn to play on the school's first women's hockey team.

In every Olympic games, a new sport emerges as the "hip" game of the moment. In Nagano, snowboarding and women's hockey have captured imaginations of athletes and spectators. Granato and her teammates, mostly well-spoken products of New England colleges, have been swamped by news organizations from around the world. Sue Merz of Greenwich, Connecticut, a defender who played hockey in Switzerland after graduating from college, was interviewed by a Swiss television station in German.

"Our top priority is to win a medal," Merz said. "But for all those young girls out there, you can look these women playing and say, 'I want to be like that, Mom!'"

Women's hockey is markedly different from men's game. Skating is slower and shooting is weaker, but it is played with great skill by the top teams here. The Americans played a precision passing game that gave them almost continuous possession of the puck. The Americans outshot the Chinese, 31-10, and the U.S. goalie, Sarah Taeting, did not make a save that required pads until the third period.

Body-checking is illegal, so there is none of the violent crashing and banging that television viewers are accustomed to when watching men play. An American player was given a roughing penalty for a slap that was probably softer than the one she got from the doctor when she was born.

The women are smaller than the men, but a lot bigger than their figure skating counterparts. The heaviest play-

er on the U.S. team is Angela Ruggiero, a 175-pound defender who weighs five pounds more than Jason Dunnigan, the heaviest U.S. male figure skater. The lightest player, 127-pound forward Alana Blahoski, is still a lot bigger than the 79-pound figure skating sensation Tara Lipinski.

The Americans' crushing victory over China shows that women's hockey is still wildly uneven, with Canada and the United States, the No. 1 and 2 seeds in Nagano, dominating world play and other countries lagging far behind in a tournament that numbers only six teams. Canada crushed Japan on Sunday by the football-like score of 13-0 and Finland defeated Sweden by a touchdown, 6-0. That means the three top teams won by a combined score of 24 to nothing.

Although the U.S.-China game was even more one-sided than the score suggests, fans in the cavernous Aqua Wave rink, which looks like a hangar for jumbo jets, were still excited. A large contingent from the United States waved flags and screamed for the U.S. women.

"I think about girls growing up and knowing that they are more options for them than just figure skating," said Christine Dunn, 28, from Massachusetts, whose sister, Tricia, plays on the U.S. team. "These women are showing them that they can do something maybe a little more nontraditional."

Heather Norton, 23, from Maine, who played hockey at the University of New Hampshire, called the game "historic."

"So many women have spent their lives breaking down the barriers between men's and women's sports and breaking down old stereotypes," Norton said. "This game should have happened a long time ago."



Hiroto Noake of Japan, left, and Steven Elm of Canada racing in the 5,000-meter speed skating event Sunday.

SKATE: Aided by Technology, 3 Men Pulverize Olympic Record

Continued from Page 1

was only on Friday that they received approval from the sport's governing body, the ISU, to use them in competition. Romme and his teammates, along with Veldkamp, attached them to their hoods and their lower legs. And though American skaters already were scheming to capitalize on the same physics principles and wore suits with vertical seams on the thighs, it appears the Dutch came out ahead in the arms, or should we say, legs race.

"Maybe the strips helped us," said Romme, 24. "But I think the most important part was the good skating." This was not beating the clock. This was beating it up. First came Veldkamp, a skater of fortune who is Belgian by birth, and his father was interested in making him into a soccer star when he named him for Italian player Gianni Rivera. Instead, Romme became the world's top distance skater, and by the time he completed three laps Sunday, Ritsma knew his record would never make it to a book.

He has been competing for Belgium in World Cup events and training alone since the 1995-96 season. With considerable help from lawyers, he acquired Belgian nationality last July, which also made him eligible to be a

Belgian in the Olympics. Veldkamp orbited the M-Wave's oval in a time of six minutes and 28.31 seconds, thereby erasing the world mark of 6:30.63 that Romme set in December.

Veldkamp's joy was as great as it was brief because as soon as the ice had been resurfaced, Veldkamp's former Dutch teammate, Rintje Ritsma, completed the requisite 12-and-a-half laps in 6:28.24. Ritsma would have even less time to savor his place in history. Fifteen minutes after he finished, Ritsma had the hundreds of orange-clad Dutch skating groupies who had made the pilgrimage to Japan, it was Romme's turn for a multiple tour de force.

Romme liked to joke that he was made in Made (the name of his home city), and his father was interested in

erasing the world record was 6:34.96.

Anyone who wants more should mark Feb. 17 on his or her Olympic calendar. That is the date of the men's 10,000, the last event in which Romme still holds a world record. "Not for long," Ritsma said. "Romme will beat that by 25 or 30 seconds."

What surprised Romme was how

The Name of the Game, The Main Event: Politics

Make Luge Not War (A Nice Thought, but...)

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — As someone has said regarding the travails of a politician much in the news lately, it is considerably better to make love, not war. Here in the snowy mountains of Japan, a similar sentiment has been expressed, which is, essentially, make luge, not war.

A threat to the international attention given to the Winter Olympic Games, which began their skating and sledding Saturday, stirred many members of the International Olympic Committee, as well as such formidable voices as the Japanese foreign minister to appeal for

peace in the world for at least two more weeks, or the duration of these Olympic Games.

There is, to use another old expression — co-opted from fencing — a rattling of sabers in the Gulf.

The U.S. government has decided that a military action may very soon be needed to compel a reluctant President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to quit building weapons of mass destruction and the hardware to deliver them.

"It is our hope," said Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, "that the Olympic Trace will be observed."

In November, the Olympic committee persuaded members of the United Nations to write a statement saying that no war should be held during the Olympic Games, and that the skiers and snowboarders and skaters and curlers and lugers, must continue on their merry way. This is a nice head-in-the-sand posture, and one not uncommon for the IOC.

If there is a war, imagine the distraction the IOC and the organizing committee would have to put up with.

A statement issued by the Organizing Committee for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, said: "The desire for a lasting peace is universal. As these are the final Olympic Winter Games of this century, we intend to use this opportunity to launch an appeal that the 21st century be an era without armed con-

flicts, where people of all nations respect each other's dignity and join together to build a peaceful and better world."

It is difficult to espouse a more noble wish. But the reality of the situation is more pressing, and while "peace" is a powerful word emanating from that statement, so is the word "launch."

It has taken Japan and the busy beavers of the IOC much work to prepare for the Games here, at a cost estimated at \$10 billion.

This is more than the salaries of entire National Basketball Association teams, so attention must be paid.

"Politics," Samaranch said, "have no place in sport."

Of course not, except when World War I and World War II forced cancellation of the Games. Except when President Jimmy Carter decided the United States would boycott the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow, and the Soviet Union responded in kind for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Except when any of the other numerous boycotts have been held.

It is rare when politics does not play some role in sports, especially the Olympics: from votes on which city will be selected as host for the Games to decisions to ban certain countries, such as South Africa for its former apartheid laws, and even Japan, which was punished as an Axis power and was not permitted to participate in the 1948 Olympics.

In 1972, Palestinian terrorists slaughtered 11 Israelis during the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Avery Brundage, the IOC president at the time decided that the Games were too important not to continue, even for a proper period of mourning. "The Games must go on," Brundage announced.

But now, according to Sandy Berger, national security adviser to President Bill Clinton: "We must deal with what is overriding importance. We have to do whatever is necessary."

This is a rational approach and not inconsistent with the history of politics and sports. Especially where the Olympics has been concerned.

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

WINTER OLYMPICS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1998

Fog Forces Cancellation Of Downhill

Men's Race Is Moved To Wednesday; 2 Other Races Are Rescheduled

By Amy Shupley
Washington Post Service

HAKUBA, Japan — An hour before the scheduled start of the Olympic men's downhill, clouds gathered over the Happo one course. Minutes before race time, a light snowfall began, impairing visibility and delaying the race's start. Within 90 minutes, fog obscured the top of the mountain and forced a postponement of the event, which was rescheduled for Wednesday.

The men's downhill is traditionally the first big medal event of the Olympic Games. After three straight days of

ALPINE SKIING

sunny weather for training on Happo one, the snowstorm Sunday proved a rude interruption to the first full day of Olympic competition.

The race was canceled because of the fog rather than the snowfall, said a U.S. skiing spokesman, Tom Kelly.

In addition to moving the men's downhill to Wednesday, the Games' organizers also rescheduled the slalom part of the men's combined competition to Monday from Wednesday. They also moved the combined downhill to Tuesday afternoon from Monday morning.

The women's super-G remained on the schedule for Tuesday morning.

"We have another 15 days," said Gianfranco Kasper, the general secretary of the International Ski Federation. "That's the reason we have the downhill at the beginning. We have more than enough time." Kasper said the weather forecast for Monday and Tuesday "is very bad."

"Then we should have quite a long good-weather period," he said.

The Nagano Meteorological Agency said strong winds and heavy snowfalls were expected until at least Monday night and participants should be aware of a high danger of avalanches.

Luca Cattaneo of Italy was scheduled to be first of the 44 competitors, followed by Lasse Kjus of Norway, Hannes Trinkl of Austria and Jean-Luc Cretier of France.

The racers' starting positions are partly a function of their World Cup standings. The top 15 World Cup performers are put into a lottery for the first 15 positions.

Hilary Lindh, a former U.S. downhill who retired soon after winning the world championship last year, said a delay of a day or two could severely impair the favored racers.

"Some people are ready to race today," said Lindh, who was at the race doing television work. "Maybe it's their window of opportunity. If they don't hit it right, they may not be at their peak like they were. If you are ready to go, it's really difficult to get to that point again."



Marina Khalturina rising from a fall before the judges Sunday as Andrei Kroukov landed his jump. The Kazakhs were not the only pair to suffer in the error-plagued short program.

Eric Draper/The Associated Press

Dmitriev Survives Short Program Long on Fallen Skaters

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — It was a night when more skaters than flowers seemed to land on the ice. And the judging was every bit as inconsistent as the skating. But in the end Artur Dmitriev of Russia put himself in position to become the first man to win Olympic gold medals in pairs skating with two different partners.

Eight of the first 15 pairs fell in the short program. Sabrina LeFrancois and

FIGURE SKATING

Nicolas Osseland of France fell twice. Only five of the 20 competitors managed to land cleanly side-by-side triple toe loops. Even the favorites, Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikkharulidze of Russia, crash-landed the most elemental of triple jumps and finished a controversial third.

Those who skated cleanly were not fully rewarded. Mandy Woerzel and Ingo Steuer, the defending world champions from Germany, performed without errors but managed only second place. This, despite the fact that Dmitriev and his partner, Oksana Kazakova, did an atrocious death spiral that left Kazakova wobbling like a top and unable to lower her head near the ice.

The U.S. champions, Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen, finished fourth after the judges could not cohesively score their unblemished, powerful performance. The marks ranged from first place from the American judge, Roger Glenn, to seventh place from the judges representing Australia and Germany.

"Others missed, they skated clean

and they had more difficult lifts," said Peter Burrows, who coaches Ina and Dungjen. "They should be first. The Australian judge must have been judging an entirely different event."

Sikkharulidze has not shown that he can remain composed under pressure. He and Berezhnaya fell four times in the long program at the 1997 world championships, dropping from third in the short program to ninth overall. He fell again Sunday.

Dmitriev was ecstatic about his position, though he knows that the top three are essentially tied going into the long program, which counts for two-thirds of the scoring. His passion and power seem to turn on like a light switch every Olympics. He has been inconsistent and overweight at other times, but for the Winter Games, he is always dedicated and reliable.

He botched the side-by-side triple jumps twice at the 1997 world championships and had to settle for third place with Kazakova. They struggled again Sunday during warm-ups, with his final attempt at a triple toe becoming a single toe. A few minutes later, though, he and Kazakova landed the simultaneous jumps with impressive confidence and flow.

Having recently lost nine pounds (four kilograms), Dmitriev showed great fitness, strength and balance, lifting Kazakova one-handed above his head as he whirled down the rink. They spun in perfect, creative unison, one hand above their heads, then one leg lifted high. As always, they finished with the applause-drawing contortion of a spin, with Kazakova leaning forward on her left leg while her right leg lifted upright like a flagpole.

Dmitriev and Kazakova skated more resourcefully and ambitiously than Woerzel and Steuer. Although the Germans skated cleanly, they seemed to play it safe because of a shoulder injury Steuer sustained in December when he was hit by a car. After suffering discomfort in practice Sunday, Steuer took a pain-killing injection for the evening performance. It is uncertain whether he will be able to sustain medal-winning excellence over four and a half minutes of the long program.

"The weather changed," Steuer said. "It is snowing and I can feel it in my shoulder. I hope it is not changing Tuesday and I feel better."

Dmitriev, 30, won the gold medal in 1992 and a silver in 1994 with his former partner, Natalia Mishkutienok, who was more flexible but less expressively passionate than Kazakova. What Kazakova lacks is Olympic experience. She appeared tense and fidgety in the warm-ups Sunday, furiously rubbing her hands together and wearing a look on her face somewhere between awe and alarm. She never seemed to find a blade edge on the back outside the death spiral and, while seven judges placed them first, two put them in fourth.

"She is always nervous about that element," Dmitriev said.

To win a second gold medal, Dmitriev must demonstrate his own stamina and draw from Kazakova a performance that is clean and assured, not timid.

"I will tell her to skate like she skates her show program — with a lot of passion," said Tamara Moskvina, who coaches Dmitriev and Kazakova.

"We are not finished, just a little bit finished," Dmitriev said. "We'll see what happens."



Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikkharulidze of Russia, the favorites in pairs skating, gliding into third Sunday despite crash-landing a triple jump.

Don Mills/The Associated Press

Surprising Legend

Jones Suit Won't Be 'Part'

By Linda Jones

Associated Press

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